MOTION PICTURE REVIEWS

WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY CLUB
LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

VOL. III - 1932

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THE WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY CLUB
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

JANUARY 1932

THE WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY CLUB

LOS ANGELES BRANCH
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN
943 SOUTH HOOVER STREET

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THE WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY CLUB

LOS ANGELES BRANCH

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

« »

Mrs. John Vruwink, Mrs. Palmer Cook, *Co-Chairmen*

Mrs. Gerard A. Murray, *Preview Chairman*

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FEATURE FILMS

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BEAU HUNKS » »

Laurel and Hardy. Direction by James Horne. M.G.M.

When Hardy's best girl refuses him, he and Laurel join the Foreign Legion and become heroes through a series of blunders only possible to these incomparable comedians. The picture follows the well known Laurel and Hardy formula and will delight their many followers.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 *Excellent* Children, 8 to 12 *Excellent*

CITY SENTINELS » »

Previewed under the title "Smashing the Vice Ring". Walter Huston, Jean Hersholt, Jean Harlow, Tully Marshall. Direction by Charles Brabin. M.G.M. (Seen in preview).

Honest and sincere "Fighting Fitzpatrick" works his way up in the police force from patrolman to Chief. He is determined to clean up the city despite the handicaps of politics, "writs of habeas corpus", and meddling civic committees. In this drama of gangster activities the police are the heroes in the unequal struggle to protect life and property even at the cost of their own lives. It is a fair presentation of the police problem and the crime situation, realistic and exciting. Mr. Huston gives an excellent characterization.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 *Not suitable* Children, 8 to 12 *No*

COCK OF THE AIR » »

Billie Dove, Chester Morris,.Watt Moore Written by Robert Sherwood and Charles Lederer. Direction by Tom Buckingham. Howard Hughes Production. United Artists.

From a brilliant beginning this picture simmers down into slapstick, sacrificing all plot value in a jumble of antics. It is difficult to criticize because the production has some charm; lovely scenes of a Venetian carnival, other familiar and intriguing European settings, airplane shots which are distinctive and beautiful. But Billie Dove is not the type for slapstick and one feels a certain amount of embarrassment in finding her there. It might have been a thrilling romance exquisitely produced. Actually it is a mediocre inconsistent comedy which manages to preserve some measure of entertainment.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 *Not recommended* Children, 8 to 12 *No*

CORSAIR » »

Chester Morris, Thelma Todd. A Roland West Production. United Artists.

The whole idea of this picture involves such preposterous ethics that no discriminating audience could possibly accept it. A football hero, clerk in a Wall Street brokerage, is revolted at the demand that he sell worthless mining stock to a widow. In order to prove that he can make just as much money without duping widows, he becomes a murderous hi-jacker. Having gained the respect of his former employer by his superior cunning and brutality, he condescends to accept a fine position, satisfied with the assurance that he will not have to sell poor stock to unsuspecting victims. Fortunately the production is neither glamorous nor well acted enough to disguise its stupidity and not consistent enough to make its bad ethics seem practical.

Adolescents, 12 to 16: *No* — Children, 8 to 12: *No*

DANCE TEAM » »

James Dunn, Sally Eilers. Direction by Sidney Sanfield. Fox.

The personal charm of the stars and the appealing quality of this human little story of the struggles, successes and vicissitudes of two young people make this a delightfully entertaining picture. James Dunn and Sally Eilers are ideally cast, and the well developed plot, spontaneous humor and clean romance should hold great appeal for family audiences.

Adolescents, 12 to 16: *Good* — Children, 8 to 12: *Probably little interest*

DR. JEKYLL AND MR. HYDE

Fredric March, Rose Hobart, Miriam Hopkins, Halliswell Hobbes. Direction by Rouben Mamoulian. Adapted by Percy Heath and Samuel Hoffenstein from the story by Robert Louis Stevenson. Paramount-Publix.

Fredric March gives a remarkable and masterful presentation of the dual personality of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. His buoyant, impulsive doctor of the the early scenes makes him a thoroughly likable character, which emphasizes the contrast when he sinks to the level of the degraded Hyde. The change is adroitly effected by the use of sound effects and shifting camera to indicate the reversion of feeling that he undergoes. On the whole the mood, the atmosphere, of the Stevenson novel is retained in the hair-raising and blood chilling moments, and in the working out of the great discovery which ends in the triumph of the lower self. The story has its supernatural aspects, and the photography and sound are so directed as to convince the audience even of the incredible. There are some intimate and objectionable scenes, not in keeping with the original story, that seem in poor taste. It is exceptionally stirring and will prove, for many, too much of an emotional strain to be encompassed within the realm of entertainment, but the excellence of the production will appeal to most adults and its real interest in retrospect will be its spiritual significance.

Adolescents, 12 to 16: *Too Strong* — Children, 8 to 12: *Too hair-raising*

EMMA » »

Marie Dressler, Jean Hersholt, Richard Cromwell. Direction by Clarence Brown. M.G.M.

An unusual story, definitely constructed for Miss Dressler, gives us the combination of tears and laughter which we associate with the work of this delightful artiste. It is a theme of love and devotion, of deepest faith in human goodness, and leaves us better for having seen it. Even a suggestion of the plot is unnecessary. You will like it; laugh at the delicious absurdities, and cry without embarrassment at the pathos.

Adolescents, 12 to 16: *Excellent* — Children, 8 to 12: *Good*

GALLOPING THROUGH » »

Tom Tyler. Direction by Lloyd Nosler. Monogram Pictures.

A Western of the old type with some good riding and much sudden death. Details have not been carefully chosen to place the story in pioneer days; consequently there seems little excuse for the administration of justice by continuous gun play. Episodes are melodramatic to the point of absurdity. It is on a level with cheap magazine serials, boring for adults and discriminating adolescents, fostering wrong ideas of citizenship for those with untrained minds.

Adolescents, 12 to 16: *Not recommended* — Children, 8 to 12: *No*

GIRL OF THE RIO » »

Dolores Del Rio, Leo Carrillo. Adapted from the play "The Dove" by Willard Mack. Direction by Herbert Brennen. R.K.O.

It may be that the pendulum of taste has swung away from romantic swashbuckling

melodrama so far that this former stage success suffers in consequence. At any rate the picture seems unreal and arouses little interest. A well selected cast struggles with situations which invite no sympathy and do not leave an impression of plausibility. The plot is laid in a Mexican border gambling resort where the "Dove" dances in the Casino. She attracts the attention of a lawless gambler who exerts every effort to get her as his mistress. The reason for his final renunciation is not so convincing as it seemed in the stage production. The photography and outdoor settings are exquisite.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *Not recommended*
Children, 8 to 12 — *No*

HELL DIVERS » »

Clark Gable, Wallace Beery, Marjorie Rambeau. A Geo. Hill production. M. G.M.

Whatever type of picture you usually prefer, here is one that cannot fail to give you a real thrill. United States Naval aviators in action, the airplane carrier "Saratoga", its huge deck swarming with planes, target practice from the clouds, maneuvers in the air that make you dizzy just to watch. Even without the fictional element that holds together these magnificently photographed scenes, there would be plenty of romance in watching the every day life of these aviators, but the scenarist has provided deeds of heroism and self-sacrifice and breath-taking adventures that keep you on the edge of your seat. Singularly lacking in the maudlin sentimentality that often mars such pictures, the story is developed mainly through interest in the character of a sergeant, expert bomber of the squadron whose loyalty to his "Skipper" and dogged devotion to duty are equalled only by his love of a fight. Wallace Beery so ably portrays this character that he fairly lives the part, and among the real navy men does not stand out as a mere alien actor. With the cooperation of the United States Navy the producers have made a picture that is worthy of a place among the best.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *Excellent*
Children, 8 to 12 — *Very exciting*

HER MAJESTY LOVE » »

Marilyn Miller, Ben Lyon, Ford Sterling, Leon Errol. Direction by William Dieterle. Warner Brothers-First National.

Excellent comic relief, good acting and a tuneful score enliven this light musical comedy. Marilyn Miller as barmaid in a night club is the charming leading lady who loves a rich young society man. Some of the jokes and situations are off color and the plot is of no consequence, but all ends cheerfully.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *Too sophisticated*
Children, 8 to 12 — *No interest*

HUSBAND'S HOLIDAY » »

Clive Brook, Vivienne Osborne. Adapted from the novel and play by Ernest Pascal entitled "Daddy Goes A Hunting." Direction by Robert Milton. Paramount-Publix.

A program picture concerning "a woman's struggle to preserve her marriage in the face of her husband's infidelity." It lacks originality in treatment or theme and is of average interest only for adult audiences.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *No*
Children, 8 to 12 — *No*

LADIES OF THE BIG HOUSE » »

Sylvia Sidney, Gene Raymond. Direction by Marion Gering. Paramount-Publix.

In this starkly realistic drama, an innocent young couple are "framed" and thrown into prison for a crime they have not committed. The unforgetable scenes of prison life, the suffering and despair of the young husband and wife and their final vindications should be powerful propaganda against injustice and corruption. Though perfectly acted and skillfully directed, the maturity and intensity of its theme are too somber for children.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *Hardly*
Children, 8 to 12 — *No*

LADIES OF THE JURY » »

Edna May Oliver, Ken Murray. Direction by Lowell Sherman. R.K.O.

A very charming lady wheedles and persuades her reluctant fellow-jurors to acquit an ex-chorus girl of murder. Edna May Oliver as the "charming lady", gives just the right touch of comedy and burlesque, and because of her finesse and humor we all can enjoy a most entertaining evening at the expense of our famous jury system.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *Harmless*
Children, 8 to 12 — *Little interest*

MANHATTAN PARADE » »

Winnie Lightner, Charles Butterworth. Direction by Lloyd Bacon. Photographed in technicolor. Warner Brothers.

If "Manhattan Parade" is Hollywood's answer to "Once in a Lifetime" it misses fire by too malicious an attack. Hollywood

took the "kidding" too seriously, for the burlesque is overdone and the typical characterizations lose reality, Winnie Lightner alone seeming human. For plot: a woman costumer exploits a mad Russian playwright in order to secure contracts for a Broadway show, and the vulgarity of two producers provides the humor. However it is different in theme and has excellent color effects, which make it on the whole a fairly entertaining, if trivial, program picture.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *Unobjectionable*
Children, 8 to 12 — *No interest*

MATA-HARI » »

Greta Garbo, Ramon Novarro, Lionel Barrymore, Lewis Stone. Direction by George Fitzmaurice. M.G.M.

There is always a degree of fascination in the operations of a spy. In this play Mata Hari, most notorious of the World War intrigants, comes to life in the person of Greta Garbo and relives the vivid and tragic months in Paris which inevitably lead to the firing squad. It is one of the finest opportunities Miss Garbo has had to display her skill and charm. Lionel Barrymore and Ramon Novarro appear as two of the officers ensnared by her fascination, Lewis Stone as her superior in the espionage system. The cast is exceptional even to the minor characters, and direction is noteworthy, with very skillful touches in the use of silence and darkness. It is a picture for the discriminating. Nevertheless, because of the facts of the story, the general tone is depressing, and the courtesan phase of Mata Hari's life is too strongly emphasized for adolescents.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *Too mature*
Children, 8 to 12 — *No*

MEN IN HER LIFE » »

Charles Bickford, Lois Moran. From the book by Warner Fabian. Direction by William Beaudine. Columbia Pictures.

Charles Bickford plays the part of a rich bootlegger who decides to retire and learn parlor tricks. Lois Moran is a society girl in need of money whom he hires to teach him drawing-room tactics. The story is at first amusing with a dash of spice but later develops into a melodramatic tragedy rather antiquated in treatment.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *Better not*
Children, 8 to 12 — *No*

MEN OF CHANCE » »

Mary Astor, John Halliday, Ralph Ince, Ricardo Cortez, Kitty Kelly. Direction by George Archainbaud. R.K.O.

Against the picturesque and colorful background of a Parisian race track is unfolded a romance of the intrigues of professional gamblers. Mary Astor as a bogus countess and Ricardo Cortez as a handsome gambler are the leading figures in this sophisticated and well acted drama. All the shady deals and sordid situations, though entirely in keeping with this type of story, are confusing and not particularly wholesome subjects for the entertainment of immature audiences. It is fairly entertaining for adults.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *Better not*
Children, 8 to 12 — *No interest*

PANAMA FLO » »

Helen Twelvetrees, Robert Armstrong, Charles Bickford. Direction by Ralph Murphy. R.K.O.-Pathe.

"Panama Flo" is strictly for adult audiences if they enjoy sordid, tawdry melodrama without any particularly artistic accomplishments to redeem it. It tells the story of a girl, stranded by her fiance, and without funds, who, in her abandoned predicament, is caught stealing. She is forced to work out her redemption, and loyalty to her rescuer is rewarded in the end. It is vulgar in substance and implication.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *Absolutely not*
Children, 8 to 12 — *No*

PARTNERS » »

Tom Keene, Nancy Drexel. Direction by Fred Allen. R.K.O.-Pathe.

Adjust your yawns to a wolesome, simple direct "Western". It is a well photographed film, rather stilted in dialogue, but adequate in cast and swift in action. An old peddler is murdered and a young rancher accused of the crime. The peddler's small grandson helps detect the real culprit. Though the picture contains nothing outstanding for adult audiences, it is probably entertaining for juveniles, and the presence of the child actor will heighten the interest for them.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *Yes*
Children, 8 to 12 — *Yes*

PEACH O'RENO » »

Bert Wheeler, Robert Woolsey, Joseph Cawthorn, Dorothy Lee, Zelma O'Neal. Direction by William Seiter. R.K.O.

Reno furnishes amusing material for this absurd burlesque full of comical situations,

stunts and gags. The Brunos quarrel on their 25th anniversary and rushing off to Reno, each engages the firm of Wattles and Swift. Humor runs riot over divorce methods and court room scenes. The cast is uneven, the jokes broad, enjoyment of which is a matter of personal taste.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *Not recommended*
Children, 8 to 12 — *No*

PRIVATE LIVES » »

Norma Shearer, Robert Montgomery, Reginald Denny, Una Merkel, Jean Hersholt. Direction by S. Franklin. M.G.M.

Strictly out of order for the immature and those who have puritanical leanings, this is nevertheless a highly diverting comedy of the sophisticated type which has held a dominant place on the stage during recent years. It throws the proprieties to the winds. Amanda and Ellyot, a divorced couple, meet by a freak of chance in a French hotel, where each is embarking on a new matromonial venture, and swept away by the old infatuation, leave together for a chalet in Switzerland. There follows the conflict of two charming and temperamental people who love each other and yet are too individual to sacrifice anything for the sake of peace. It is all very human, and in spite of farcical exaggerations, gives an insight into most marriages and gaily ridicules divorce as a panacea. The dialogue is satiric, often scintillating, and both actors and directors have entered completely into the spirit of Noel Coward's play concerning the complexity of modern marital relations.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *Very unsuitable*
Children, 8 to 12 — *No*

RACING YOUTH » »

June Clyde, Frank Albertson, Louise Fazenda, Slim Summerville. Direction by Vin Moore. Universal Pictures Corp.

A beautiful girl inherits an automobile factory and arrives to investigate it, accompanied by a formidable spinster secretary. The factory manager mistakes the secretary for the owner. This complication plus a villain, a terrific automobile race and a romance supply the points of interest in a stereotyped comedy. There are two major accidents thrown in to appeal to the gladiatorial taste of the mob.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *Not harmful*
Children, 8 to 12 — *Not harmful*

THE RAINBOW TRAIL » »

George O'Brien, Cecilia Parker, Minna Gombell, Roscoe Ates. From the novel by Zane Grey. Direction by Barry Conners and Philip Klein. Fox.

An old fashioned "Western" with villains and heroes melodramatically characterized, the "Rainbow Trail" is a sequel to "Riders of the Purple Sage". It is somewhat confused and improbable in plot but well enough acted and directed, and distinguished by glorious photography of the Grand Canyon. Possible for family audiences, it is marred by needlessly harrowing scenes.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *Yes*
Children, 8 to 12 — *Questionable in detail, but full of action.*

THIS RECKLESS AGE » »

Richard Bennett, Frances Starr, Charles Rogers, Frances Dee, Peggy Shannon, Charles Ruggles. Direction by Frank Tuttle.

"There's still good in our young folk", might well be the theme song of this pleasantly sentimental tale. The father and mother of two selfish irresponsible children find them essentially sound when a crisis presents itself. Richard Bennett and Frances Starr give convincing and natural performances as father and mother, Charles Rogers and the rest of the cast are adequate. It is agreeable though unstimulating entertainment for the whole family.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *Yes*
Children, 8 to 12 — *Very little interest*

SHERLOCK HOLMES' FATAL HOUR » »

Arthur Wentner, Norman McKennell, Jane Welch, Minnie Rayner. English production released by Warner Bros.

This English production excels in flawless sets, beautiful photographic effects, fine dialogue spoken by cultured trained voices, good acting and direction. It has an interesting story in which the famous detective ferrets out the mystery of a bank robbery. While it is tense and gripping it is never gruesome, and dry humor frequently relieves the situations. This type of detective story may be safely enjoyed by adolescents as well as grown-ups.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *Good*
Children, 8 to 12 — *Too mature*

SOOKY » »

Jackie Cooper, Robert Coogan, Jackie Searl. Direction by Norman Taurog. Paramount-Publix.

As a sequel to "Skippy" this comedy drama of the lives of three small boys, Skippy, Sooky, and Sidney, has lost none of the entertainment quality so outstanding in the former production but has indeed more charm and pathos in its unfolding. The story of the devotion of Skippy to his Shanty town friend, Sooky, is a treat for any audience. There are many fine shots and well selected bits of humor, as well as strong tragedy. It is an excellent family picture for all except those who might find its pathos too emotional.

Adolescents, 12 to 16	Children, 8 to 12
Excellent	*Good if they are not disturbed by pathos.*

STEPPING SISTERS » »

Louise Dresser, Minna Gombel, Jobyna Howland. Direction by Seymour Felix. Fox Film Corp.

Much good acting talent is wasted in this slow moving slapstick comedy. The plot is concerned with an ambitious mother who attempts to secure social prestige for her daughter by a "good match". Her former profession of Burlesque show girl overtakes her and many complications arise. It is often vulgar and much overdrawn but there are a few good laughs.

Adolescents, 12 to 16	Children, 8 to 12
Not recommended	*No*

A STRANGE AFFAIR » »

Jack Holt, Ralph Graves. R.K.O.-Pathe.

Detective story which is not outstanding in entertainment value. It is lightly amusing, only fairly interesting. Unobjectionable.

Adolescents, 12 to 16	Children, 8 to 12
Unobjectionable if type is enjoyed	*Too mature*

THE SOUL OF THE SLUMS » »

William Collier Jr., Cora Mahaffey. Direction by Frank Strayer. Action Pictures. Seen in Preview.

A gloomy melodrama concerned with the reform of a boy who has served a seven year prison term for a crime which he did not commit. On learning of the boy's release from prison, the man who "framed" him, deserts his common law wife and leaves town. This girl and boy fall in love and are redeemed through the effort of Brother Jacob, the host at an all night mission in the slums. The dialogue is stilted, the plot dreary and the photography very dark. It is not a wholesome production although it points a moral.

Adolescents, 12 to 16	Children, 8 to 12
Not recommended	*No interest*

TORCHY TURNS THE TRICK » »

Ray Cooke, Dorothy Dix. Educational Pictures, Inc.

A cheap and unimportant comedy in which "Torchy" the office boy, through a ruse, gains a million dollar order for his firm! Only passable for any audience.

TWO KINDS OF WOMEN » »

Miriam Hopkins, Phillips Holmes, Irving Pichel, Stuart Erwin, Wynne Gibson. Direction by William de Mille. Paramount-Publix. From Robert Sherwood's play "This is New York."

This picture, with an unusually experienced cast and directed by William de Mille, is nevertheless a distinct disappointment. The story showing a cross-section of New York night life has the usual sordid details of squandered money, excessive drinking and unpleasant entanglements. Even the "comic relief" is unpleasant unless one can enjoy the owlish blinking of a gin-dazed woman. It contains nothing new in lines or situations and is not constructive. It would be a waste of time for an audience seeking agreeable or thought provoking diversion.

Adolescents, 12 to 16	Children, 8 to 12
No	*No*

UNEXPECTED FATHER » »

Slim Summerville, Zazu Pitts, Cora Sue Collins. Direction by Thorton Freeland. Universal Pictures Corp.

A light comedy which presents Slim Summerville as a man about town, grown suddenly wealthy. Pudge, an orphan waif is responsible for a change in marriage plans for Slim, which incidentally supplies Pudge with a mother and father. The child, played by Cora Sue Collins, will win the hearts of the audience, and two such comedians as Slim and Zazu Pitts as usual supply an abundance of laughs.

Adolescents, 12 to 16	Children, 8 to 12
Amusing	*Amusing*

THE WOMAN FROM MONTE CARLO » »

Lil Dagover, Walter Huston, Warren William, John Wray, George Stone. Direction by Michael Curtis. Warner Brothers.

Anyone who is interested in new personalities on the screen will enjoy seeing Miss Dagover, though the picture in which she makes her bow to our public has little else to recommend it. It is a confused and implausible story of a woman with a past who leaves the past only to return to it after adventures in matrimony on a French warship have ended unsatisfactorily.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *Not recommended*
Children, 8 to 12 — *No interest*

UNDER EIGHTEEN » »

Marian Marsh, Anita Page, Warren William, Norman Foster. Direction by Archie Mayo. Warner Brothers.

The sweet girl graduate, disillusioned by the unhappiness of her sister's penniless marriage, decides to sacrifice herself for money. Her indiscretions are discovered in the "nick of time". We cannot recommend this trifle, morally or aesthetically. It is quite dull.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *No*
Children, 8 to 12 — *No*

WORKING GIRLS » »

Paul Lukas, Judith Wood, Dorothy Hall, Charles Rogers, Stuart Erwin, Mary Forbes. From the play, "Blind Mice" by Vera Caspary and Winifred Lenihan. Direction by Dorothy Arzner. Paramount-Publix.

Two sisters, the one a clinging vine, and the other an independent breezy individual, arrive in New York to seek their fortune. A saxophone player, a noted scientist, and a play boy provide the male coefficients for situations which vary from naive introductions to complicated indiscretions. A "shot gun" marriage makes a climax to a very much bemuddled alignment of love affairs.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *No*
Children, 8 to 12 — *No*

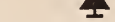
X MARKS THE SPOT » »

Lew Cody, Wallace Ford, Sally Blane, Mary Nolan. Direction by Earl C. Kenton. Tiffany.

A good mystery story well written, fast moving, excellently acted. The editor of a scandal sheet, investigating a libel suit, becomes involved in the murder of an actress. The plot has a familiar trend perhaps, but there are tense moments, and the climax is unexpected and exciting. It is best suited to adults who enjoy this type of relaxation.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *Not recommended*
Children, 8 to 12 — *No.*

SHORT SUBJECTS



AHOY » »

Santa Barbara Sea Scouts. Direction by Donovon Miller. Educational Pictures, Inc.

This Boy Scouts of America Short Subject wins for itself merely honorable mention as an attempt by amateurs to show the intrigue and excitement that boys find in sea scouting. Unfortunately the picture is stilted and has an improbable plot. Boys will find it derisively amusing.

CANINE CHAMPIONS » »

Grantland Rice Sportlight. R.K.O.-Pathe.

An interesting and educational study of champion pointers and setters from the Mitten Kennels in Pennsylvania. The dogs' fine qualities are displayed and later the camera accompanies them a-field, during a pheasant hunt. Excellent for all audiences.

FANCY CURVES » »

Fourth in series called "Play Ball with Babe Ruth". Direction by Lou Breslow. Universal.

A very amusing comedy in which Babe Ruth coaches a team of girl players. It is instructive as well as humorous and will entertain all audiences.

MICKEY'S ORPHANS » »

Mickey Mouse Cartoon.

An idyll on the Christmas spirit, satirical and very amusing. The action swings in rhythm and mood to a musical accompaniment. Children will delight in it. Recommended for the family.

PLAY BALL WITH RUTH » »

Direction by Ben Stoloff. Universal Pictures Corp. A. Slide, Babe, Slide. B. "Just Pals". C. "Perfect Control".

Babe Ruth enthusiasts will be pleased with this original and attractive presentation of their favorite. Always the hero of a gang of boys, orphans, school kids, etc. Ruth teaches them the game of baseball and incidentally, a few truisms of the game of life. He has a most engaging way with youngsters. All three reels recommended for all audiences.

SELF-CONDEMNED » »

Direction by Spencer Gordon Bennett.

This is one of a series of Nick Harris films depicting actual solution of crimes. In this case four men are held on the suspicion of murdering a certain lawyer, and the detective, by persuading them to reenact the crime, discovers the guilty individual. It is a dramatic story, portrayed with realism, morally fitting in that punishment is meted out to the criminal. Nevertheless, there is a question whether such cases might not better be left to the police records and the evening papers. Not recommended for family audiences.

UGLY DUCKLING » »

Silly Symphony Cartoon.

This Silly Symphony is a parody on the "Ugly Duckling". The accompanying music is punctuated entertainingly with sounds from various animals. Recommended for the family.

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LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

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FEATURE FILMS

There are several films which we believe deserve special mention this month. Of these there are only two which can be called family pictures: "The Man Who Played God" is a simple human story which leaves us a little happier for having seen it. "The Man I Killed," splendidly acted and directed, has a great theme and, to quote Mrs. Winter, "it is interesting to note that the author is a great French dramatist, the director a great german artist, and the actors notable Americans."

"Arsene Lupin" is for the sophisticated. The combination of the Barrymore brothers on the screen is an occasion for rejoicing and this brilliant, artistic, (if immoral) vehicle will delight such audiences. "The Hatchet-Man" is distinguished by the acting of Mr. Robinson. The play is very melodramatic. In "The Shanghai Express" exceptional photography and direction make the picture unusual. It is a sophisticated story of a glamorous woman, suitable only for adult audiences. "The Beast of The City," previously reported as "City Sentinals," is a stirring drama which men particularly will find exceptionally interesting.

There are other films also which are recommended for one reason or another in the reviews, making quite a generous quota in one month. But unfortunately not many are either suitable or will appeal to children. Saturday afternoon will have to call for other plans than movies!

ARSENE LUPIN » »

John Barrymore, Lionel Barrymore, Karen Morley, Tully Marshall, John Miljan. Direction by Jack Conway. M.G.M.

The charm of John Barrymore as well as the artistry of Lionel Barrymore, delights in this vivid, intriguing mystery story, in which the element of suspense is cleverly maintained to the close. Strong dramatic values, unusual photographic effects, and attractive scenes distinguish the picture. It is to be regretted that there is the introduction of several unnecessary and highly suggestive passages which besmirch an otherwise delightful picture. There is a zest of adventure throughout, now with the arch crook,

now with the police, with an undercurrent of humor that relieves any incident which might become sombre.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *Sophisticated*
Children, 8 to 12 — *Too mature*

BUSINESS AND PLEASURE » »

Will Rogers, Jetta Goudal, Joel McCrea, Dorothy Peterson. Direction by David Butler. Fox. Reviewed in September from a theatre preview.

This screen play taken from "The Plutocrat" by Booth Tarkington has a fantastic plot that is wholesome in general but descends to melodrama towards the end. Throughout an ocean voyage and a sojourn in the vicinity of Port Said, Will Rogers as a razor-blade magnate is kept in continual difficulty by a too conventional daughter, a jealous wife and a scheming adventuress. There is not so much riotous humor as one usually expects from Will Rogers, but there is plenty of opportunity for his usual sly by-play and shrewd observations. The film is one which should appeal to family audiences.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *Good*
Children, 8 to 12 — *Mature*

THE BEAST OF THE CITY » »

Walter Huston, Jean Hersholt, Tully Marshall, Jean Harlow, Wallace Ford. Direction by Charles Brabin. M.G.M.

This picture was reported in the December bulletin under the title "City Sentinals." It is a very strong drama picturing a splendid and successful fight against the ramifications of oraginzed crime in a great city. It is honestly portrayed, without sentimentality or exaggeration, is stirring emotionally, and eulogizes the honest and sincere efforts of the police force. The acting is exceptionally fine, notably Walter Huston. Adults and older adolescents will find it thrilling entertainment with stimulating moral reactions.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *Very exciting*
Children, 8 to 12 — *No. Too harrowing*

CHARLIE CHAN'S CHANCE » »

Warner Oland, Alexander Kirkland, H. B. Warner, Linda Watkins, Marion Nixon, James Kirkwood. Direction by G. Blystone. Fox.

Charlie Chan, the Chinese detective of Earl Derr Biggers' stories, moves again with oriental good humor and wisdom through this latest mystery film, "Charlie Chan's Chance." Mr. Chan selects New York this time for his sleuthing. He and Inspector Fyfe of Scotland Yard volunteer their services to assist in solving a mystery murder. A Scotland Yard detective is found dead, just as he is on the point of establishing his facts in a murder case. Genially scattering proverbs as he goes, Chan helps expose the crime. Most devotees of this form of drama will enjoy it thoroughly.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *Good*
Children, 8 to 12 — *Too mature*

CHEATERS AT PLAY » »

Tom Meighan, Charlotte Greenwood, William Bakewell. Direction by Hamilton MacFadden. Fox.

A poor and misleading title covers an interesting play concerning the reformed Lone Wolf's atempt to withold his son from a life of crime. The action takes place on shipboard. Much of the picture is done in an entertaining manner by proficient actors, and comic relief is furnished by Charlotte Greenwood. There is howerever an artificiality in the treatment which leaves one skeptical of the final outcome. For younger people the thrill of the crook's life might easily outweigh the more obvious plea for honesty.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *Questionable*
Children, 8 to 12 — *No*

DISORDERLY CONDUCT » »

Spencer Tracy, Sally Eilers, El Brendel. Direction by John Considine, Jr. Fox.

Another police gangster drama in which the police are shown to have many opportunities for graft, although Honest Dan and his methods come out best in the long run. Sally Eilers has a headstrong role as the daughter of the very wealthy gang leader, whose policy is to break the law but not to fight it. The audience has no sympathy either with the reckless young woman or with gangster methods. There are several climaxes at the end of the film any one of which might be the close. A small boy makes the drama intense and tear provoking, and also supplies much of the humor.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *Not recommended*
Children, 8 to 12 — *Too Strong*

THE EXPERT » »

Chic Sale, Dickie Moore, Lois Wilson, Earle Foxe. Adapted from Edna Ferber's novel "Old Man Minick." Direction by Archie Mayo. Warner Brothers.

This is the story of an old man who comes to live with his son and daughter-in-law. Full of good intentions he completely upsets the household, but in the end he evolves a

solution which we are led to believe provides a happier life for all concerned. Old man Minick is by no means the hilarious sort of role usually expected of Chic Sale. The character is genuinely lovable but pathetic, and Mr. Sale plays it splendidly and with fine understanding. It holds real interest for adults, but the theme and characters will probably have little meaning for youthful audiences.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *Little interest*
Children, 8 to 12 — *Little interest*

GAY CABALLERO » »

George O'Brien, Victor McLaglen, Conchita Montenegro, Linda Watkins. From the novel by Tom Gill. Direction by Alfred Werker. Fox.

In this vigorous, swift-moving story of the Mexican border an American impersonates a bandit in order to champion the cause of oppressed peons. Atmosphere is heightened by a fiesta and good desert effects. There is so much action and it is sometimes difficult to follow, but it is the kind of adventure picture that juniors enjoy as well as many grown-ups.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *Yes*
Children, 8 to 12 — *Very exciting*

THE HATCHET MAN (Honorable Mr. Wong)

Edward G. Robinson, Loretta Young. Direction by William Wellman. Warner Brothers-First National.

This is a picture with such intensity of theme that it can hardly be classed as entertainment. Like other stories dealing with oriental traditions, it is grimly solemn and leads inevitably towards tragedy. The first scene is laid in San Francisco's Chinatown as it was some twenty years ago. Mr. Wong, Honorable Hatchet Man, is called upon to avenge the murder of a member of his Tong. Then follows a terrific emotional conflict between loyalties, which is the keynote of the entire plot. Mr. Robinson achieves a notable triumph in the power and restraint of his acting. He seems to be truly oriental not only in appearance but in spirit. Fidelity to detail in costume and setting emphasizes all the more the inability of others of the cast to put themselves into character. It is this inadequacy together with a too sensational plot, that keeps the picture from being more worthy of Mr. Robinson's capabilities. However it is out of the ordinary, and the story is coherent and well developed.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *Unsuitable theme*
Children, 8 to 12 — *No*

HIGH PRESSURE » »

William Powell, Evelyn Brent, Evalyn Knapp, Frank McHugh. Direction by Mervyn LeRoy. Warner Brothers.

William Powell departs from his usual form and presents a different characterization in that of a breezy, adventurous, romantic promoter whose activities are hazardous at times. The story is amusing and full of action, with good dialogue and is well acted, providing pleasant relaxation.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *Entertaining*
Children, 8 to 12 — *Probably of little interest*

INTIMATE » »

Fredric March, Kay Frances. From "The Storm Lamb" by William J. Locke. Direction by Loctar Mendes. Paramount-Publix.

Do not let the title scare you away because "Intimate" is actually a wholesome, amusing farce with which the family may pass a pleasant hour. The picture is entertaining chiefly because of the presence of Fredric March, Kay Francis, and Stuart Erwin, but the dialogue is also satisfactory and the humorous situations are skillfully handled. It is a story of mistaken identities, where one twin steps into his brother's place to the satisfaction of all.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *Good*
Children, 8 to 12 — *Harmless*

THE LADY WITH A PAST » »

Constance Bennett, David Manners, Ben Lyon. Direction by Griffith. R.K.O.-Pathe.

"The Lady With a Past," actually a misnomer for the girl in question, proves to be a smart, amusing and sophisticated comedy, a take off on the younger set, their psychology, search for excitement, and decidedly unpuritanical reactions. A latchkey offered by a notorious woman to the heroine's "light o' love" is the causa causans which influences her to seek a past of her own. Ben Lyon is delightful as the gigolo who assists her to win a reputation, and Constance Bennett shows a real flair for comedy which has been overlooked in casting her in dramatic roles. It is light, clever, entertaining, but not presenting life truthfully or with any emphasis on the accepted moralities. It is recommended for "grown-ups" only.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *No*
Children, 8 to 12 — *No*

LAW AND ORDER » »

Walter Huston, Harry Carey. Direction by Edward Kahn. Universal Pictures Corp.

Reviewing Westerns is becoming a game like current stamp collecting, every week a new issue. However, "Law and Order" is decidedly above the average. It is an authentic cross section of early days in Tombstone, Arizona, a typical pioneering town with its corner saloons, hitching posts and false facades on frame buildings. Terrorized by a maurauding element, the people persuade a United States marshal, who is famous for his courageous enforcement of the law to take command and organize a safe community for them. He succeeds here as elsewhere because his methods are just and are backed by the steady aim of his six shooters. Historical incidents from the life of Wyatt Earpe, well-known peace officer of his day, form the basis of the plot. The prologue is somewhat too long and the comedy relief grotesque, but an excellent cast creates and maintains the illusion of that period. It is a good family picture although exciting for young children.

Adolescents, 12 to 16: *Good* — Children, 8 to 12: *Very exciting*

LAW OF THE SEA » »

William Farnum, Rex Bell, Sally Blane, Priscilla Dean. Direction by Otto Brauer. Chadwick Production for Monogram Pictures Release.

This exaggerated and unwholesome melodrama has one redeeming feature, splendid sea photography. But even this cannot compensate for improbable situations handled with obvious brutality, exemplifying the ethical standard of the Old Testament, "an eye for an eye." Perhaps the excitement engendered by fierce and prolonged fighting may satisfy a primitive urge in some natures, but the average person will miss nothing by keeping the children at home and staying with them!

Adolescents, 12 to 16: *No* — Children, 8 to 12: *No*

THE LOCAL BAD MAN » »

Hoot Gibson, Sally Blane. Adapted from the story "All For Love" by Peter B. Kyne. Direction by Otto Brown. Allied Pictures Corporation.

As an antidote for oversophistication the breezy vigor of the wide open spaces of a good old western melodrama is not to be overlooked. True, we recognize the familiar trend of the villainous plot against our brave hero but the horsemanship excels as usual, the chase is as stirring and the romantic interest as charming. Juniors will find it quite satisfying.

Adolescents, 12 to 16: *A matter of taste* — Children, 8 to 12: *Harmless*

LOVERS COURAGEOUS » »

Robert Montgomery, Madge Evans, Roland Young. Direction by Robert Z. Leonard. M.G.M.

A simple and not unusual story is lifted to a plane above the average by good characterizations and clever lines. An adventurous young Englishman wanders about the world seeking his fortune and eventually falls in love with the daughter of an admiral. When her father very logically objects to the match, Willie and Mary find their path beset with difficulties. Concerning two normal, attractive young people, it is a pleasing change from the jazz pictures, and can be recommended for a family audience.

Adolescents, 12 to 16: *Yes* — Children, 8 to 12: *Not sufficient interest*

THE MAN I KILLED » »

Phillips Holmes, Nancy Carroll, Louise Carter, Zazu Pitts, Lionel Barrymore, Tom Douglas. From the play by Maurice Rostand. Direction by Ernest Lubitsch. Paramount-Publix.

This picture portrays not the brutalities of actual combat but the pathological stress of post war conditions. It is a remarkable plea for international understanding and the abolition of war. The plot depicts a young Frenchman, who is haunted by the perpetual recollection of killing a German lad. Unable to find spiritual relief, he decides his only hope rests in gaining the forgiveness of the boy's parents. Such a stirring vehicle challenges Lubitsch's skill. He misses no telling opportunities to symbolize the irony and hypocrisy surrounding wars, and altogether produces a beautifully eloquent and very human drama. To Lionel Barrymore goes the most outstanding dramatic scene. He and Lubitsch bring out superbly the pathos of this moment . Here Barrymore's closing line strikes the keynote of Rostand's belief, "Goodbye old men, nurse your hates if you wish, I'm with the young who know how to forgive." Do not miss this picture.

Adolescents, 12 to 16: *Very sad and mature* — Children, 8 to 12: *No Psychology beyond them*

THE MAN WHO PLAYED GOD » »

George Arliss, Violet Hemming, Ivan Simpson. Direction by John Adolphi. Warner Brothers-First National.

There is a distinct lesson in this film which, however, does not spoil its entertainment value. When a family heritage of deafness descends upon a great concert pianist, he accepts his fate with bitterness and cynicism, repudiating God for robbing him of his music. Lip-reading brings him back to the world but his bitterness continues for he cannot reconcile the idea of a loving God who creates great beauty with the same God who destroys it. The way in which he finally achieves happiness makes an appealing story. This picture cannot be classified as a great production yet it is outstanding due to Mr. Arliss' finesse in acting and Mr. Adolphi's restraint in direction. The theme is simple, direct and wholesome and is highly recommended for the family.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *Good*
Children, 8 to 12 — *No interest*

NECK AND NECK » »

Glen Tryon, Vera Reynolds, Carol Nye. Direction by Richard Thorpe. Sona-art World Wide production. Educational Films. Seen in preview.

A "fourflusher" selling aluminum ware from door to door, goes about bragging and boasting of his accomplishments until he becomes entangled in the consequences of the tales that he tells. Horse racing plays a prominent part. The plot is tiresome on the whole, but several scenes, chief of which is an interesting poker game, have elements of entertainment.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *Not recommended*
Children, 8 to 12 — *Not recommended*

NO ONE MAN » »

Carole Lombard, Ricardo Cortez, Paul Lukas. Direction by Lloyd Corrigan. Paramount-Publix.

This film presents the predicament of a girl endeavoring to find the right husband among the idle rich at Palm Beach and points north. Again we have a society drama with all the trappings of fine backgrounds, clever photography, smart dialogue, luxurious costumes and dramatic appeal. The morality is not sound, in that short term marriages are considered one of the natural concomitants of present day life, but situations are handled with a due amount of delicacy, and the play will probably be acceptable to a sophisticated audience.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *No*
Children, 8 to 12 — *No interest*
Presents wrong point of view

POLLY OF THE CIRCUS » »

Marion Davies, Clark Gable. Direction by Alfred Santell. M.G.M. (Seen in preview.)

"Polly of The Circus," the story of a charming and appealing performer in a circus who finds herself unceremoniously thrust under the care and protection of a minister, proves as entertaining in motion pictures as on the stage. The conflict of standards as represented by the circus and the church forms the basis for this swiftly moving melodrama. Miss Davies does creditable work as a trapese performer, giving the audience a fair quota of thrills. Clark Gable as an Episcopal minister is convincing and sincere. The divergent attitudes are fairly presented and at no time are there any offensive situations. The circus background affords humorous bits which children may enjoy. Love and sacrifice supply the pathos which makes this drama intensive for adults and a bit mature for young folk.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *Passable*
Children, 8 to 12 — *Little interest*

PRESTIGE » »

Ann Harding, Adolphe Menjou, Melvyn Douglas. Direction by Tay Garnett. R.K.O.-Pathe.

Even the charm of Ann Harding does not mitigate the cruel realism of this morbid story. It pictures the demoralizing influence of tropical climate and an uncongenial appointment upon a young army officer who is stationed in Indo-China in charge of the French penal colony. His wife strives loyally to help him keep his morale under terrible conditions. While it undoubtedly presents a significant problem its appeal to American audiences is not apparent. The depressing surroundings, the cruel conditions within the prison and the general horror of such a military appointment are problems which we cannot solve. As propaganda it leaves us helpless and certainly it does not entertain although the production is interesting technically.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *Not recommended*
Children, 8 to 12 — *Certainly not!*

THE SECRET WITNESS » »

Una Markel, Zazu Pitts, William Collier, Jr. Direction by Thorton Freeland. Columbia.

A penthouse is the scene of a murder mystery in which there are numerous suspects with opportunities to have committed the crime, among whom is a pet ape. Una Merkel, as a self-appointed "Miss Sherlock Holmes" reveals the clever criminal when the police are about to make a cumbersome error. The love element is present but secondary in the unfolding of the mystery. Zazu Pitts as a telephone operator provides many laughter provoking snatches. It is above the average of its type.

Adolescents, 12 to 16	Children, 8 to 12
Probably good	*Doubtful; rather exciting*

SHANGHAI EXPRESS » »

Marlene Dietrich, Lawrence Grant, Warner Oland, Clive Brook, Anna May Wong. Direction by Josef von Sternberg. Paramount-Publix.

The most impressive atribute of this excellent photo play is its perfect photography. The camera seems to have caught everything as it would have been seen by a participant in the drama, thus creating such an extraordinary atmosphere of reality that one lives in the picture. The story itself concerns what happens to a motley group travelling on the Shanghai Express from Peking to Shanghai during one of the frequent revolutionary uprisings. Marlene Dietrich is the "Shanghai Lily", exotic lady whose name is a by-word among men. The rather melodramatic events of the journey hinge upon her personality, and the other characters all are influenced in one way or another by her presence on the train. The cast is ideally chosen to represent the necessary types. Humor, pathos and thrills abound. Marlene Dietrich's beauty casts a spell that makes the fantastic plot credible, and the realism of each small detail convinces the beholder that he actually is in China. It is an eminently satisfying entertainment for any audience to whom the "Shanghai Lily" is acceptable as a heroine.

Adolescents, 12 to 16	Children, 8 to 12
Too sophisticated	*No*

THE SILENT WITNESS » »

Lionel Atwill, Bramwell Fletcher, Greta Nissen. Direction by Marcel Varnel, R. L. Hough. Fox.

A vivid and stirring mystery story holding interest at high pitch until the unexpected climax. The directors have shown ingenuity and skill in developing the action, using discretion in the detail necessary to motivate the murder, in the suspense and tempo of the dramatic court room scene lightened by the delightfully comic humor of one witness, and in the method of portraying the solution. The cast is excellent. It will undoubtedly appeal to lovers of distinctive fiction and to older adolescents.

Adolescents, 12 to 16	Children, 8 to 12
Doubtful	*Better not*

SKY DEVILS » »

Spencer Tracy, William Boyd. Direction by Edward Sutherland. Howard Hughes Production.

"Sky Devils" resembles in general design other and earlier war pictures, since the very thin plot concerns the adventures of three soldiers in war-time France, with the attendant scenes showing aviators in action. Unlike its predecessors its humor is generally wholesome, but the director apparently did not have the courage of his convictions if he wanted to make it entirely so, for he introduced several blatant vulgarities that do much to offset the good points of the picture and overshadow the commendable scenes.

Adolescents, 12 to 16	Children, 8 to 12
Not recommended	*No*

TAXI » »

James Cagney, Loretta Young. Direction by Roy Del Ruth. Warner Bros.

James Cagney has a very engaging personality and real ability which seems doomed to be veiled in the shadows of the underworld. He is again cast as a gangster ever ready with his fists or with his gun. This time it is a taxi cab racket where life is valued very lightly and punishment is left to the revengeful discretion of the rival companies. Direction is capital, and it may prove entertaining to those who are still interested in gangster pictures . We do not recommend it to youthful audiences because its moral values are rather too indefinite.

Adolescents, 12 to 16	Children, 8 to 12
Not recommended	*No*

TOMORROW AND TOMORROW » »

Ruth Chatterton, Paul Lukas, Robert Ames. Direction by Richard Wallace. Based on the play by Philip Barry. Paramount-Publix.

Excellent acting makes this picture an achievement in entertainment of the more serious type of problem play. The treatment

of the theme for the most part is phychological, making unconventional situations sufficiently objective and delicate not to be offensive. Ruth Chatterton as the childless wife, longing for maternal experience; Robert Ames as a devoted but matter-of-fact husband; and Paul Lukas as a charming and famous psychologist, all give excellent character portrayals. It is an impressive drama of its kind.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *No*
Children, 8 to 12 — *Incomprehensible*

UNION DEPOT » »

Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., Joan Blondell. Direction by Alfred E. Green. First National.

Douglas Fairbanks, Jr. is cast in the role of a light-fingered hobo with gentlemanly manners who, having just left jail with his pal, is first seen in quest of food and clothes at the expense of the public. After a series of encounters with the police, lightning changes into other people's clothing and a wild chase, he rescues a lady in distress and the picture ends leaving him and his pal just where they started. Practically the whole of the action takes place in a depot and occupies only the space of one evening's time. A realistic background is formed by moving throngs coming and going through the station, types such as one sees always in such places, and the suggestion of possible drama flits here and there among the heterogeneous groups. It is entertaining and exciting, though not to be taken seriously since young Fairbanks is never convincing as the hobo. The complicated action is somewhat confusing and the picture is not sufficiently impressive to leave a lasting memory. One wishes certain crudities had been omitted.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *Not recommended for its ethics*
Children, 8 to 12 — *No*

ZANE GREY'S SOUTH SEA ADVENTURES

Photographed by Romer Grey, Bob Carney, Thomas B. Middleton. Description written by Tom Geraghty. Produced by Sol Lesser.

Fishermen's paradise, and a fish tale which never would have been believed without the accompanying pictures as proof of Mr. Grey's skill! There is real interest for "land lubbers" in this film portraying Mr. Grey's adventures searching the South Seas for rare and sporty fish and the editing has been skillfully done to maintain interest throughout. The equipment is shown and there are excellent shots giving final catches which will prove very satisfying, especially to those who love this sport.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — *Excellent*
Children, 8 to 12 — *Good*

SHORT SUBJECTS

ANYBODY'S GOAT » »

Educational Pictures, Inc.

Three crooks try to procure the money of a country girl with an elaborate story about a goat which has swallowed a purse. More slap-stick; harmless but not very entertaining.

THE DUCK HUNT » »

Mickey Mouse Cartoon. Columbia Pictures, Inc.

Mickey Mouse goes duck hunting with his hound. They are both outwitted by the wary birds. Extremely good fun. Recommended for the family.

DUCKS AND DRAKES » »

Grantland Rice Sportlight. R. K. O.-Pathe.

An explanation of the method of using decoys in duck hunting, with beautiful shots of birds in flight. It is of special interest to sportsmen. A family picture.

KEEP LAUGHING » »

Educational Pictures.

The proprietress of a night club finds difficulty in revealing the best points of her business to a prospective buyer. Plenty of slapstick for those who like it and some good acrobatic dancing. Fair entertainment.

LAND OF GHANDI » »

Vagabond Adventure.

This travelogue seems to eschew prevailing Cook's Tours and really scratch below the surface of Indian life. The domestic and industrial scenes smack of reality and the atmosphere created is convincing. Recommended for the family.

THE LAST DANCE » »

In this Aesop Fable, good music and a splendid voice is wasted on a mediocre cartoon. It is a story of a cat courting his lady love and luring her away from a dance by his serenade. Recommended for adolescents and children.

TALKING PICTURES EPICS (Six Short Travelogues)

"Mexico Today" » »

Emma Lindsey Squier.

An introduction to the physical beauty and rich tradition of Mexico. This is the first of a series on this country. It is excellent.

"City of Faith" » »

Elmer Clifton.

This two reel travelogue of a visit to the Holy Land into which Biblical history is introduced is most unusual. Its reverent and authentic character will be appreciated by all.

"Boston Common" » »

One of a series of "Great American Cities" in which historical landmarks are beautifuly photographed and the fascinating charm of the city is caught. Very interesting, and especially recommended to children studying American History.

"Found in Morocco" » »

A "wanderlust" picture.

It has a superficial beauty but lacks the freshness and originality of the other films in this group.

"Toney Wong's Scrap Book" » »

Tony Wong of radio fame reads poems which are illustrated on the screen by charming photographic studies.

"Happy Hunting Grounds" » »

Ward Laselle.

Studies of wild animal life in Oregon. Children will delight, especially in the episode of the bear cubs.

TORCHY TOO TOOTS » »

Ray Cooke, Dorothy Dix, Franklin Pangborn, Edmund Breese. Educational Pictures, Inc.

This is a harmless but rather dull Torchy episode in which Torchy saves his boss from another embarassing situation. His antics will probably amuse young people.

TOY TOWN » »

Aesop Fable. R.K.O.-Pathe.

An original and delightful cartoon in which mice visit a toy shop and meet with entertaining adventures. Excellent for all, with real charm for children.

UNCROWNED CHAMPIONS » »

Grantland Rice Sportlight.

Four expert sportsmen demonstrate their skill. One in fly casting, another in pistol shooting, a third at bowling, and a fourth in calling moose in the great Northwest. Such exhibitions of skill are both educational and diverting. Recommended for the family.

MOTION PICTURE REVIEWS

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LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

MARCH 1932

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EDITORIAL

Will Hays, on a recent trip to Hollywood, gave out the following statement to the press:

"America's motion-picture fans have gone high-brow—

"Pictures of a dramatic and intellectual caliber, which would not have been successful popular entertainment a few years ago, are now being received with enthusiastic approval.

"Group leadership has aided in shaping community taste toward higher levels of entertainment."

This moulding of public opinion in favor of good pictures has been the objective of organized women's groups over a period of some ten years. This is the first public acknowledgment which we recall, that the motion picture industry feels any result from their concentrated effort.

Up to the time of Mrs. Winter's arrival at the Hollywood offices of the Association of Motion Picture Producers and Distributors and the opening of facilities for previewing at the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, the efforts of club women were apparently frowned upon, certainly they were not encouraged, except by a few neighborhood exhibitors who believed in the value of good will by giving attention to the women's requests for family programs and junior matinees. There was a general opinion, not only in the industry but often among the laity, that these women's groups wished to control, or to censor films. Quite generally exhibitors felt that announced approval of a picture "damned" it for the public. They believed that approval would be given only pictures which were down to a child's level of appreciation and that consequently only the sweet, banal or trite would come under a recommended classification. It was also generally believed that condemnation by women reviewers would send the public flocking to pictures, in the hope of finding sophistication. It is interesting to realize the changed attitude. At a recent gathering of women and exhibitors in Los Angeles, a number of managers announced that, with a few exceptions, the money makers in their houses were those films most heartily recommended by the previewing groups.

It may be interesting to those who are not

familiar with the history of the work of "better films" committees, to know something of the development of previewing.

In the early days one "went to the movies." Few questioned the type of films to which they went, and few doubted the suitability of all films for the children. The family went to the nearest theatre, the children were given an extra dime on Saturday afternoon, and the sophisticates clung to the traditions of the stage and remained away from the movies.

The writer recently saw a revival of early silent films which seemed to explain this early indifference on the part of parents to children's attendance. The exaggerated melodramatic action of these thrillers, one featuring Blanch Sweet and the other Harry Carey, was so far from realism that no one could connect it with actuality. A child possibly carried home a remembrance only of swift action, superhuman strength, and punishment for evil, all as far from reality as the usual beloved fairy tales.

But as technique improved a more critical attitude grew and mothers began to have a realization of the power of visual education. They realized that pictures made for adult audiences, and suitable for mature appreciation were frequently confusing and sometimes actually dangerous to unoriented youth. Groups grew naturally which presented requests for children's matinees to neighborhood theatre managers. These men were often willing to cooperate with the women, but buying their pictures in blocks, often before the films were actually made, seeing only the titles or the advance notices of the type of film, and this information purely a publicity man's idea for adult advertising, they had no idea of what the picture would mean to children's audiences. They asked for suggestions for booking. The women found themselves at a loss to comply. And thus the "previewing" began. Women went to the first run down town theatres to give their opinion of the films' suitability for matinees. These audiences were composed usually of children from 2 to 12 years old. It was a difficult problem, but the women finally had to place an average nine-year-old interpretation as the standard for their evaluation, realizing that children under this age had actually no business at any performance.

The value of public opinion was realized by a large chain of theatres in California, now known as the Fox-West Coast, which placed Miss Regge Doran as director of the Public Relations Department. A charming, intelligent college woman, she enthusiastically helped to build up this cooperation between theatres and the public and when she left her place was taken by Miss Ryllis Hemington, a former theatre owner, whose accurate and keen knowledge of the exhibiting business, and sympathetic understanding of the women's view point further cemented the bond between the two groups.

The previewing continued through the courtesy of these theatres and the distributing agencies, but it was not entirely practical for the exhibitors because the reports came in too late to be of assistance in booking and many pictures of real family appeal were unintentionally lost for week end performances when, if information had been available, they might have replaced a picture of interest only to adult or uncritical groups. Managers running junior matinees were forced to buy substitute films for Saturday afternoons which did not appeal as much to children or, more important still, gave them the unfortunate impression that the club women were "censoring" their shows, nothing being more objectionable to children or youth! Also the reviews were helpful only locally. They were useless in communities even close to Los Angeles because of difference in booking dates.

In spite of handicaps and severe disappointments the women persevered. The work begun under the auspices of the Los Angeles District, California Federation of Women's Clubs, grew to include the Daughters of American Revolution, Parent-Teachers Association, University women, and many other local groups. In six years the interest throughout California and other states, notably Georgia and New York, developed until the advent of sound in motion pictures created a real crisis.

The entire character of motion picture entertainment changed with the addition of sound, both in subject matter and in technique. Children's attendance became an immediate and distressing problem to parents who feared the greater sophistication of dialogue and the increased realism of the action, and also, after the first curiosity had been satisfied, the public generally became more selective and women's groups, known to be "previewing" or reviewing films were beseiged for information on current releases, not only for children's recreation, but also to aid adults in finding entertainment to suit their own tastes. It was the beginning of the reaction hoped for by women's groups which had for years suggested discriminating attendance—or "talking through the box office."

Then in the spring of 1929 the Association of Motion Producers first recognized the work of the women's groups by arranging previews for them at the Academy, and in September of that year appointed Mrs. Thomas G. Winter to be the representative or official go-between for women's clubs and the industry. We shall outline in the April "Reviews" the method of previewing and the important part which Mrs. Winter has played in any accomplishment which the women have achieved.

CORRECTION

The editors wish to call attention to the following correction of a typographical error that appeared in the February "Reviews." "Arsene Lupin" was characterized as "immoral." The word intended was "unmoral" and of course carries a very different connotation.

FEATURE FILMS

ALIAS THE DOCTOR « «

Richard Barthelmess, Marion Marsh. Direction by Michael Curtiz. Adapted from Emric Foeldes' Hungarian Play. Warner Brothers First National.

A dramatic and interesting plot, finished acting and unusually competent direction are combined in a photoplay of superior entertainment value. The story is of a young medical student who sacrifices his future in an effort to save his brother. As the plot unfolds there are many tense and stirring situations. The atmosphere is very real and true to medical procedure. Richard Barthelmess in the leading role will enlist the sympathy and admiration of the audience.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 *Interesting* **Children, 8 to 12** *Beyond their understanding*

BROKEN LULLABY « «

Phillips Holmes, Nancy Carroll, Louise Carter, Zazu Pitts, Lionel Barrymore, Tom Douglas. From the play by Maurice Rostand. Direction by Ernest Lubitsch. Paramount-Publix.

Reviewed in February, 1932, under the title of "The Man I Killed."

CARNIVAL BOAT « «

Bill Boyd, Ginger Rogers, Hobart Bosworth. Direction by Al Rogel. R.K.O.

The boss of a lumber camp affectionately hopes that his likable son will inherit his job. A Carnival Boat drifts into the scene and a little dancer brings a crisis in their lives. But the simple, unimportant story fades into the background as interest centers in the activities and thrilling experiences of log cutters amid unusually beautiful natural scenery of timbered mountains. The picture will appeal to family audiences as a wholesome outdoor story.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 *Good* **Children, 8 to 12** *Exciting*

FIREMAN SAVE MY CHILD « «

Joe E. Brown, Evalyn Knapp, Lilian Bond, Dickie Moore, Guy Kibbee. Direction by Lloyd Bacon. First National.

Joe E. Brown, with his naive egotism and his funny grimaces, is the whole show in this rollicking farce depicting the fortunes of a baseball player. There is nothing extraordinary about the picture, but it is full of genuine humor and will appeal especially to baseball fans old and young. The irrelevant title

will mislead only those who have not yet learned to expect the unexpected from Joe E. Brown.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 *Good* **Children, 8 to 12** *Harmless fun*

FORBIDDEN « «

Barbara Stanwyck, Adolph Menjou, Ralph Bellamy. Direction by Frank Capra. Columbia.

This picture tries pitifully to run the whole gamut of human emotions in a rather vain attempt to prove the truth of the old familiar maxim: "Sin doesn't pay." Lulu, a library worker, seeks romance, finds it in Robert Grover, clings to it in spite of the fact that he is married and apparently in love with his wife. Her decisions to be noble come at unexpected moments when her nobility will hurt everyone but herself. In spite of the good cast the picture is neither healthy nor interesting.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 *No* **Children, 8 to 12** *No interest*

FREAKS « «

Olga Baclanova, Wallace Ford, Leila Hyams, Rosco Ates, and the world's most famous freaks. Direction by Tod Browning. M.G.M.

In this unpleasant melodrama a midget falls in love and marries a beautiful trapeze artist. Her scheme to kill him is frustrated, and the revenge perpetrated by his fellow freaks is a horrible spectacle. Physical abnormalities are exploited in a revolting manner, and unnatural relationships are suggested. It is thoroughly unsavory and offensive to good taste in subject matter and portrayal. The producer in attempting to create a still more extravagant thriller has run amuck and succeeded only in pandering to morbid curiosity.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 *No* **Children, 8 to 12** *Absolutely not*

HOTEL CONTINENTAL « «

Peggy Shannon, Theodor Von Eltz. Direction by Christy Cabanne. Tiffany.

The Hotel Continental, for fifty years a city's gilded rendezvous, is to be torn down. On this last night of its hospitality, a strange assortment of guests fill it to capacity, and a stranger mystery permeates the atmosphere. While it is not an outstanding picture, the unravelling of the secret provides pleasant recreation for adults and older adolescents.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 *Passable* **Children, 8 to 12** *Mature*

IMPATIENT MAIDEN « «

John Halliday, Mae Clarke, Lew Ayres, Una Merkel, Andy Devine. Direction by James Whale. Universal.

The doctor is now emerging as our latest type of film hero, and if you take your operations seriously you may enjoy a rather realistic close up of the heroine's appendectomy. One follows the many and divergent calls on an interne's time, sometimes tragic, sometimes amusing, and strives to sympathize with his sweetheart who, while apparently very worldly wise, shows surprising naiveté in her relationship with her employer. The story is shallow, and the general tone is depressing rather than entertaining for the average spectator.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 *Unsuitable* **Children, 8 to 12** *No*

LOST SQUADRON « «

Richard Dix, Robert Armstrong, Joel McCrea, Mary Astor, Erich Von Stroheim, Dorothy Jordan. Direction by George Archainbaud. R.K.O.-Radio.

Seeing this film, the audience has the novel sensation of watching, over a director's shoulder, the making of another film. The plot revolves around three aviators, the last of their flying squadron in France. Hollywood is the eventual setting where we find these men exhibiting their skill for the camera and taking fearful risks in order to produce sensational shots. Jealousy on the part of a relentless director sends one aviator to destruction; loyalty kills a second. The cast is adequate, but aside from the extremely violent action, the hair-raising stunts and spectacular crashes, "Lost Squadron" is just another aviation "movie." It is too exciting for children, and even if this objection is considered negligible, a murder and the disposal of a dead body make it exceedingly harrowing.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 *Passable* **Children, 8 to 12** *No*

MAKER OF MEN « «

Jack Holt, Richard Cromwell. Direction by Edward Sedgwick. Columbia Pictures.

Jack Holt as "Uncle Dudley" is a college

football coach who tries to make a real player of his weak and rather "yellow" son. Two games are shown, which will please football enthusiasts, and the whole theme is a lesson in good sportsmanship. Thanks to Jack Holt and good continuity the picture is interesting entertainment of its kind.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 *Good* **Children, 8 to 12** *Good*

MICHAEL AND MARY « «

Edna Best, Herbert Marshall, Frank Lawton. Direction by Victor Saville. Gainsborough Productions of England—U. S. Distributors. Universal Pictures Corp. From a play by A. A. Milne.

A genuine love story is fraught with that combination of delicacy, whimsy, pathos and understanding which distinguishes Milne as a playwright. The director has sensed the qualities of the original to the full, and the adaptation to the screen is unusually true. The English cast makes the most of the good dialogue; the acting is admirable. It is the story of two inherently fine people who overstep the rigid English divorce laws, and who, in spite of the circumstances which made this decision wholly justifiable, are ultimately faced with the prospect of suffering and dishonor. As an adult picture it ranks high, and it is appropriate for well-balanced juniors because of its excellent attitude toward love and home life.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 *Yes* **Children, 8 to 12** *No interest*

NICE WOMEN « «

Frances Dee, Sydney Fox, Russell Gleason, Lucile Gleason. Direction by Edwin H. Knopf. Universal.

The unconventional behavior on the part of most of the characters of this social drama pigeonholes it as a border line play. It is not blatantly vulgar, but the well worn theme of youth about to be sacrificed to an old roué in order to provide financial relief for a family with champagne tastes and insufficient income, certainly has a poor moral tone. Although the plot is decidedly weak, elements of entertainment are maintained by the refreshing characterization of the cast. Miss Dee is convincing as a "nice woman" and gives a sincere performance in her sacrifice to her family, while Miss Fox is irresistible in her wickedness. Several sequences are interpolated which have no value as plot advancement and have decided destructive moral influence.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 *No* **Children, 8 to 12** *No*

ONE HOUR WITH YOU « «

Maurice Chevalier, Jeannette MacDonald, Roland Young, Genevieve Tobin, Charles Ruggles. Direction by Ernest Lubitsch. Paramount.

A young French doctor and his wife, having been married three years, are still romantically in love when the wife's best friend arrives and makes a dead set for the doctor. There are the usual suave scenes, exquisitely staged, that we have learned to expect in a Chevalier-Lubitsch comedy. It is all done with a very light satirical touch and a musical comedy atmosphere, and those to whom the inuendos are apparent should not be shocked. Though the Straus music is a subordinate part, the songs are entertaining and very well sung by Chevalier and Jeannette MacDonald. The badge of honor really goes to Lubitsch for the perfection of detail and deft touches that distinguish his pictures from all others.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 *No* **Children, 8 to 12** *No*

THE PASSIONATE PLUMBER « «

Buster Keaton, James Durante, Irene Purcell, Gilbert Roland, Polly Moran. Direction by Edward Sedgwick. From the play "Her Cardboard Lover." M.G.M.

"Her Cardboard Lover," a light Parisian farce, starring Leslie Howard in the New York production, has had its metamorphosis at Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer and now emerges as "The Passionate Plumber." In this film version the humor is broadened and coarsened, and scarcely more than the general outline of the plot is left. Yet with all its vulgarity, its strident slap stick, and entire lack of the nuances which marked the stage play, it is absurdly funny. An American girl wishing to save herself from an infatuation with a French lover employs the first available man, who happens to be her plumber, to keep her out of mischief. The humor is not outstandingly witty nor of the highest type, but no one will take the clowning seriously.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 *Unsuitable* **Children, 8 to 12** *Unsuitable*

POLICE COURT « «

Leon Janny, Henry B. Walthall, Aileen Pringle, Al St. John, King Baggett. Direction by Louis King. Monogram.

The title gives little or no idea of this play which concerns a once famous actor, vitiated by drink, and the devoted son who struggles heroically to lead him back to the world of fame and fortune. It is not entertaining in the lighter sense of the word, but it has fine dramatic values, an unusual vividness and sincerity, which make it a notable picture. Walthall is splendid; Leon Janny does excellent work as the engaging though pathetic "Junior." The very unpretentiousness with which the story is developed gives it unusual power.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 *Very mature theme* **Children, 8 to 12** *Too depressing*

THE SADDLE BUSTER « «

Tom Keene, Robert Frazer, Marie Quillan, Mary Foster. Direction by Fred Allen. R.K.O.-Pathe.

The struggle between a cowboy and the "killer" horse, Wild Fury, constitutes the main part of the story, with love made a subordinate issue. Like many Westerns it is lacking in finesse and uniformity, but children, adolescents and adults who like this type of picture will be highly entertained by the swift moving plot, the thrilling bronco-busting and scenes of wild horses wandering over the range. The absence of gun-play makes it especially good for children.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 *Good* **Children, 8 to 12** *Very good*

SHE WANTED A MILLIONAIRE « «

Joan Bennett, Una Merkel, Spencer Tracy, James Kirkwood. Direction by John Blystone. Fox.

This trivial play about trivial people would be handsomely housed in a nickelodian—"From Rags to Riches," or "Money is Not All," etc. It is the story of a factory girl who wins a beauty contest and marries a millionaire though she has no affection for him. Throughout the film there is a tiresome vulgarity of lavish display, a revolting suggestion of sadism in the character of the jealous husband, and risque repartee which is sometimes funny, but often only coarse. There are so many better pictures that we do not recommend this.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 *No* **Children, 8 to 12** *No*

STRANGERS IN LOVE « «

Frederic March, Kay Frances. From "The Shorn Lamb" by William J. Locke. Direction Lothar Mendes. Paramount-Publix.

Reviewed in February, 1932, under the title of "Intimate."

TEXAS PIONEERS « «

Bill Cody. Direction by Harry Fraser. Monogram.

A Saturday matinee audience might accept this western melodrama if nothing better were available. Its appeal lies in setting, action, wild Indians and fine horses. But few children will take it seriously and it is doubtful whether they will really enjoy the inferior plot, weak direction and amateurish acting.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 *Of doubtful interest* **Children, 8 to 12** *Harmless morally*

WAYWARD « «

Nancy Carroll, Richard Arlen, Pauline Frederic. Based on novel "Wild Beauty," by Matell Howe Farnham. Direction by Edward Sloman. Paramount.

"Wayward" tells the story of two young people of different social strata who struggle to hold their home together in spite of the bitter opposition of a selfishly absorbing mother. The theme had possibilities but the picture fails to be convincing through over-emphasis and exaggeration of character and action. It lacks reality and becomes an extravagant melodrama, clean and wholesome in detail, but without subtlety or special interest.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 *Hardly edifying* **Children, 8 to 12** *No, unsuitable*

SHORT SUBJECTS

BOB WHITE « «

Grantland Rice Sportlight. R.K.O.-Pathe.

A quail hunting expedition, chiefly interesting because of the beauty and expert performance of the hunting dogs. Suitable for all audiences.

DOOR OF ASIA « «

Vagabond Adventure.

This time the "Vagabond" adventures in the land of rice fields. He discovers the ancient Chinese methods of manufacturing, building, agriculture and a few of their customs. Recommended for all.

THE GROCERY BOY « «

A Mickey Mouse cartoon. Columbia Pictures Corp.

Mickey Mouse and his dog deliver groceries to Minnie and remain to help her cook a turkey dinner. There are novel bits such as the rhythmic preparation of the food. One of the best of these amusing cartoons. Delightful for the whole family.

HELPMATES « «

Laurel and Hardy. Hal Roach.

Laurel and Hardy try house cleaning before the wife returns and indulge in the usual slap-stick dish throwing and general destruction. Stupid but harmless.

HURRY CALL « «

Chic Sales. R.K.O.

Chic Sales in an amusing, well-acted film which should entertain the whole family.

THE LIVING GOD OF THE MONGOLS

Talking Picture Epics.

No member of the family should miss these unusual and splendidly taken pictures of Northern Mongolia and the Gobi Desert.

PATHE AUDIO REVIEW No. 8 « «

Uneven editing mars this Review; interesting scenes of logging, entrancing views of Edinborough, dull shots of "bathing beauties" on a mountain climb, and a fairly amusing short of a talking parrot.

MOTHER'S HOLIDAY « «

Educational.

A comedy of "Mother's Day" where downtrodden mother rises in revolt and throws the cake in father's face. Harmless.

ROMEO MONK « «

Aesop Fable. Columbia.

A dull animated cartoon, lacking in imagination and ingenuity but harmless for juniors and children.

SLIM FIGURING « «

Grantland Rice Sportlight.

This a photographic cataloguing of the strenuous sports in which American women take part, ranging from La Crosse at Smith College to calisthenics of prospective chorus girls. The examples shown cover a wide range of physical activities. Recommended for all.

MOTION PICTURE REVIEWS

THE WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY CLUB
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

APRIL 1932

THE WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY CLUB
Los Angeles Branch American
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EDITORIAL

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The Association of Motion Picture Producers and Distributors, in offering the previewing of current releases to the women's groups, made one stipulation, namely, that only those should be invited which had national distribution for their reviews. The first groups to receive and accept this privilege were: The General Federation of Women's Clubs, The Daughters of the American Revolution, The International Federation of Catholic Alumnae, The California Association of Parents and Teachers, and the Women's University Club, Los Angeles Branch of the American Association of University Women. One or two other women's organizations were invited, but declined because they felt the work outside of their outline of service. The Boy Scouts of America were included, the Young Men's Christian Association, and also the American Librarians' Association. The boys' groups are unable to be regular in attendance, and the Librarians send representatives only when the picture is an adaptation of a book in which they feel sufficient interest to warrant their attention. Later the National Society of New England Women, the National Council of Jewish Women, and more recently, the United Church Brotherhood accepted the invitation to these previews.

Each organization is privileged to send five representatives. These reviewers are selected with care and discrimination by the chairmen of the groups, and must prove to offer intelligently constructive criticisms before they are accepted as permanent workers.

As the reviewers enter the lounge where the pictures are shown, each is given two duplicate questionnaires. These have been written in Mrs. Winter's office with the cooperation of the chairmen of the groups whose comments and criticisms were requested. The form is as follows:

YOUR NAME AND ORGANIZATION:
PROJECTION DATE:
PRODUCTION:
PRODUCERS:
DIRECTION:
CAST:
FROM THE BOOK OR PLAY:
AUTHOR OF SCRIPT AND DIALOGUE:

STORY

You are trying to judge this picture so that your point of view may interpret its value to an enormous audience with wide variations. The terms used below are merely suggestions. Use any characterizations you choose.

I. THE FIRST PURPOSE OF COMMERCIAL PICTURES IS ENTERTAINMENT

(a) What entertaining or outstanding elements has this picture? For example, is it vivid, fresh, stimulating, charming? Or is it banal, with hackneyed scenes and theme? Do you recommend it?

(b) How do you grade it for adults? For juniors? For children under 12?

II. ETHICAL VALUES

(a) Estimate the picture as a whole rather than fixing your mind on the details. (This means, does it leave a good taste in the mouth? Is the general trend, the atmosphere, wholesome? Does it build morality? Or is it demoralizing in its total? Note that questionable situations should be judged according to whether they drive a lesson or are introduced for their own sake.)

(b) Has it particularly objectionable features, such as an uncalled-for drinking, vulgar sex relations, objectionable crime situations?

(c) If questions of law are involved, does it build good citizenship?

III. ARTISTIC VALUATIONS

(a) *What type of drama is it?* (This is important because we do not demand the same treatment of all forms—for example, of farce and tragedy.)

(b) *Story Structure.* (Is the story well told? This means, does it hold together, seem consistent, properly developed? Does the dialogue fit the story?)

(c) *Acting.* (Discuss the fitness of the actors for their parts. Are they real or just stagey? Are they appropriately cast? Discuss voices and enunciation.)

(d) *Directorship.* (For example, development of dramatic possibilities; use of silence; swift or slow movement; scenic relation to dramatic situations.)

NOTE: It would be well to give a brief synopsis of the picture, using the other side of this sheet.

It is of interest to note that the social value of the film is stressed first, comments from the artistic side follow.

Each previewer is requested to write duplicate reviews. One is returned to the chairman of the group represented, the other is mailed to Mrs. Winter. These comments are not written at the Academy rooms. One of the first requests made by the Producers' Association, even before Mrs. Winter's arrival in Hollywood, was that no discussion of the pictures take place in the Academy rooms among the previewers. They insisted that the previewers make individual reports, uninfluenced by others seeing the film, and under no circumstances should the picture be discussed with members of the Producers' Association who might be present at the showing. Every effort was made that fairness and courtesy be afforded the previewers. The chairmen of the different groups have committees which then edit the five reports on each picture and give to their public their final evaluation.

In order to have this reviewing of any value, either to the Producers' Association or to the different groups, these final reports had to have a means of distribution over the country. It was naturally important to each Producer that the recommended films attract attention so that increased attendance make the previewing worth while. However, no restrictions were placed upon adverse comment. Inasmuch as financing such a project seemed a serious problem to most of the groups, the Association of Motion Picture Producers and Distributors offered to finance the printing or mimeographing, and postage. This has caused some criticism on the part of the public, but as it has worked out, actually no pressure has even been brought to bear on the final reports issued. The chairmen send copy directly to the printer's office, where it is posted also. It is then read by Mrs. Winter's office in its final released form.

The groups accepting this financial help are the International Federation of Catholic Alumnae, the General Federation of Women's Clubs, the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Council of Jewish Women, and that of the New England Women. The Young Men's Christian Association, Boy Scouts and Parent-Teachers Association release their reviews through their own monthly magazines. The Women's University Club publishes a monthly bulletin, financing it through a subscription price of one dollar a year. The fact that it has financed itself, with a steadily increasing list of subscribers, has been encouraging to those responsible for the venture.

With one exception all the groups report to their public on all films seen, whether the comment is favorable or adverse. The International Federation of Catholic Alumnae still adhere to their policy of giving out only recommended lists. This organization and the General Federation of Women's Clubs have their general chairmen in New York, where their reports are printed and mailed. They often include comments on films which have not been shown at the Academy in Hollywood. The Parent-Teachers Association and the Women's University Club send reviewers to the theatres to catch pictures which have not been shown at the Academy. It must be remembered that the showing of films at the Academy is entirely a voluntary service on the part of the individual producers, and a few are not entirely in sympathy with the procedure. Also mechanical difficulties sometimes prevent showing before release.

What is the value of this work? It must be remembered that the origin of previewing by the women's groups was not to censor films, but, as explained in the last issue of this bulletin, to give to interested individuals and community groups all over the country information on current releases. It was begun primarily for selection for children's entertainment and later for discriminating adults. As far as we know none of the previewing groups believes in political censorship as a practical correction for poor pictures. On the other hand the increased demand for the comments broadcast by the reviewing groups, the greater use of these lists in newspapers, magazines, schools, and libraries, the encouraging reports from exhibitors that the recommended films are box office successes,

would seem to indicate that *selective* attendance is the best answer to the problem. There is no desire to place a ten-year-old appreciation as the intellectual or moral standard for motion pictures. Where there are pictures which interest and appeal to that age, let the children go. Junior matinees and Mickey Mouse clubs beg for "a break"—for something which will joyously and cleanly entertain these eager little movie fans. But on the other hand there is in addition to the children's matinees and the family audiences, a large and ever increasing public for adult themes handled intelligently and with *good taste!* There will always be bad pictures. Intelligence and good taste may be cultivated, but usually people are naturally endowed with them. An industry as great as the motion picture cannot be fortunate enough to secure only those so gifted.

Mrs. Winter's connection with the Public Relations office has been most fortunate for the women's groups. She brings to the work the value of her vast experience, her singularly clear and unprejudiced insight, and the highest ethical and moral standards. Dr. Miriam Van Waters, in a study group organized by the Women's University Club and sponsored by the University of California Extension, on the subject of the Social Value of Motion Pictures, once gave the group a definition of science which was to be applied in their approach to the study. She said:

"The essence of science is the determination to investigate everything without conceding anything to current human prejudice." We believe that no one connected with the work has approached that unbiased, balanced attitude as successfully as has Mrs. Winter. Within the industry she brings the viewpoint of the public (represented by the previewing groups) to the Studio Relations Committee, which reads the scripts and sees the pictures in the process of construction, and in their finished forms before release. This opinion, added to her personal ability, must carry weight in these conferences. Inside the studios a force is at work for finer productions; outside the studios the momentum depends upon this organized public.

No movement of value can achieve results without complete understanding, similar standards and viewpoints, and cooperation between those working. Mrs. Winter's advent has drawn closer the different groups which had the same objective but possibly a different approach. They are now working together more closely, and increased results are actual. This is due in great part to Mrs. Winter's drawing of the groups together, to their recognition of her balanced and unprejudiced attitude and to her insistence upon their adherence to the highest ideals.

FEATURE FILMS

♦

AFTER TOMORROW » »

Charles Farrell, Marion Nixon, William Collier, Sr., Minna Gommbel. From a play by Hugh Stange and John Golden. Direction by Frank Borzage. Fox.

Reminiscent of "Street Scene," this seriocomedy traverses the path of ordinary folk. The audience is lead through a maze of obstacles which circumstance has interposed to thwart the marriage plans of a romantic and ambitious boy and girl. The young lovers are portrayed with sincerity by Miss Nixon and Mr. Farrell; the character parts of the remainder of the cast are well directed and presented. Minute detail in the unfolding of the story makes the picture seem longer than it really is. Although there is some comedy relief, the story, as a whole, is based on the theme of disappointment and self-sacrifice. The appeal of the production is in its series of emotional crises, most of which are wholesome and will bring sympathetic interest from a not too analytical audience.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Possibly interesting—but drab

Children, 8 to 12 No interest

♦

AMATEUR DADDY » »

Warner Baxter, Marion Nixon, Rita LeRoy. Direction by John Blystone. Fox Film Corp.

The locale of "Amateur Daddy" is a particularly pleasing one. The charm of the children and good directorship make a refreshing picture from a slightly saccharine story. An engineer, who promises to provide for the family of a dying workman, makes a mistake and adopts the wrong brood, an error which proves fortunate in the end. It

is the type of film that the whole family may enjoy.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Yes **Children, 8 to 12** Yes

♦

ARE YOU LISTENING » »

William Haines, Madge Evans. Adapted from a "Collier's" magazine story by J. P. McEvoy. Direction by Harry Beaumont. M.G.M.

The interesting activities of a radio broadcasting station provide a novel and entertaining background for a production which starts out as a fast moving, up-to-the-minute comedy. Unfortunately, sordid situations and unnecessary vulgarity enter to change the character of the story, and broken and episodic continuity destroy whatever interest has been aroused.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 No **Children, 8 to 12** No

♦

BEAUTY AND THE BOSS » »

Marian Marsh, David Manners, Charles Butterworth. From the stage play "The Church Mouse." Direction by Roy Del Ruth. Warner Brothers.

This comedy cannot be recommended for discriminating audiences. The plot concerns an unprincipled Austrian nobleman and an ugly duckling secretary who is transformed by a Paris gown. The humor is generally based on questionable situations which are not sufficiently cleverly handled to escape being offensive. The atmosphere is unsavory and unconvincing.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 No **Children, 8 to 12** No

♦

BEHIND THE MASK » »

Jack Holt, Constance Cummings, Boris Karsloff. Direction by John Francis Dillon. Columbia.

A mysterious man whose identity is hidden behind a mask, and the melodramtic doings of a ring of narcotic peddlers, are the materials of which this thriller is fashioned. Suspense is maintained throughout, which, after all, may be the test of its entertainment value for audiences who like this type of picture.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Not advised **Children, 8 to 12** No

BROKEN WING » »

Lupe Velez, Leo Carillo, George Barbier, Melvyn Douglas. From the play by Paul Dickey and Charles W. Goddard. Direction by Lloyd Corrigan. Paramount-Publix.

Leo Carrillo is a dashing dare devil bandit. Lupe Velez is the foster daughter of an American business man in a Mexican mining territory. A complicated "triangle affair" develops when a plane is crashed in the heroine's garden, with the handsome pilot emerging from the wreckage. A happy outcome is effected only after numerous exciting incidents. The dialogue is humorous and sparkling and the story moves with charming spontaneity. It is a film that the family may enjoy.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Good **Children, 8 to 12** Some interest

♦

BUT THE FLESH IS WEAK » »

Robert Montgomery, Edward Everett Horton, Eleanor Gregor, C. Aubrey Smith. From "The Truth Game," by Ivor Norello. Direction by Jack Conway. M.G.M.

A confusion in treatment is the greatest weakness of this picture. Played as pure farce the ridiculous crudities of the plot might have forestalled criticism, but as smart comedy, it becomes frequently vulgar and rather boring. It traces the adventures of two charming and impecunious gentlemen, father and son, who live by their wits, and its lack of sincerity and pointlessness, make it a disappointing vehicle for an excellent cast.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Unwholesome **Children, 8 to 12** No

♦

CARELESS LADY » »

Joan Bennett, John Boles. Direction by Kenneth McKenna. Fox.

Accepting the hazardous theory that a woman to be attractive to men must have experience and sophistication, Joan Bennett sets out to acquire both. The story of how she succeeds is absurdly farcical. But John Boles has a light touch, and Joan herself is perhaps sufficiently attractive to surmount the dull moments (of which there are many). This may prove mildly diverting to adults, but its cheap implications and banal presentation make it doubtful entertainment for adolescents.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Not suitable **Children, 8 to 12** No

CAIN » »

Native cast. Direction by Leon Poirier. Talking Picture Epics.

This French picture, taken on a small island off the coast of Madagascar, has been adapted to American use by the substitution of English words in certain sequences, but they are so infrequent, that it can scarcely be called a talking picture. It is the story of a stoker who steals from a cabin passenger and escapes to an island where he lives for years till his conscience bids him return the valuables and once more he is confronted with the choice between civilized and primitive life. The photography, which is very beautiful, and the spontaneous acting of the natives, make the picture worth seeing, although some will cavil at the extreme simplicity of the plot.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Interesting

Children, 8 to 12 Yes

◆

COHENS AND KELLYS IN HOLLYWOOD »

Charles Murray, George Sidney, June Clyde, Norman Foster. Direction by Howard Green. Universal.

Here is a golden opportunity for all those who enjoyed "Abie's Irish Rose!" Once more they can enjoy the Kellys and the Cohens in action, this time enhanced by the familiar Hollywood background of movie stars, directors, song writers, popular restaurants and swimming pools. It is cleverly and amusingly presented, and more, there is real appeal, also underlying truth in the triumphs and vicissitudes of Melville and Kelly. The whole family will enjoy this one.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Excellent

Children, 8 to 12 Good, if it interests

◆

COUNTY FAIR » »

Hobart Bosworth, Marian Schilling, William Collier, Jr. Direction by Louis King. Monogram Pictures Corp. Cooperative Exchange.

An unsophisticated, old-fashioned melodrama, in which suspense, action, and a simple love story supply pleasant, wholesome entertainment. The horse race at the county fair provides the climax after all the foul play connected with the heroine's horse is circumvented. In addition to the story, the gay setting of the fair, the character types and the beautiful horses will hold interest and make it a picture which the whole family will enjoy.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Entertaining

Children, 8 to 12 Yes

DANCERS IN THE DARK » »

Miriam Hopkins, Jack Oakie, William Collier, Jr. From the play "Jazz King." Direction by David Burton. Paramount.

The mediocre plot is concerned with a jazz orchestra leader, a taxi dancer, one of the band, and a gangster, all of whom are enacted by excellent talent. If the roles were not played so well the story would have no interest whatsoever. Jack Oakie as a self-sacrificing character, is not so convincing as in his more humorous roles, and Miriam Hopkins certainly has ability to warrant a better vehicle. It is a waste of time and depicts situations which even if they were true, would not be any credit to the art which presents them. There are present some elements of entertainment, but these are all on a low level, and the dramatic instances are not even of an intense variety.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 No

Children, 8 to 12 Decidedly not

◆

DEVIL'S LOTTERY » »

Elissa Landi, Paul Cavanaugh, Alexander Kirkland, Beryl Mercer, Victor McLaglen. From a novel by Nalbro Bartley. Direction by Sam Taylor. Fox.

The play commences with a clever and promising situation. Lord Litchfield decides to entertain at his castle the four winners of the Calcutta sweepstakes lottery, in order to observe their reaction to suddenly acquired riches. It is a motley group, including an adventurer, a crippled soldier, a Cockney widow and a young American archeologist. Perhaps, because of the complexity of the characters' lives, the theme is more suitable for a novel than a play; at any rate, in spite of good casting, excellent comedy, exciting sequences and the charm of Elissa Landi, the production fails to fulfill the promise of its opening scenes and becomes confused, unconvincing and melodramatic, but still holding interest for adults.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Doubtful; Very sophisticated

Children, 8 to 12 No

◆

THE DOCKS OF SAN FRANCISCO » »

Mary Nolan, Jason Robards. Direction by George Seitz. Action Pictures. (Seen in Preview.)

A dive on the waterfront is visited by a slumming party, one of whom is a young author. By this chance he becomes involved in the life of a woman who is the hireling and mistress of a gang leader. Her desire to

go straight is the impetus for the plot delineation. Melodrama in the ridiculous is thenceforward presented. At the supposed dramatic peak the story falls flat. Unless it is improved before the final release, it is too poor to recommend to any audience.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — A waste of time

Children, 8 to 12 — No interest

♦

THE FINAL EDITION » »

Mae Clark, Pat O'Brien. Direction by Howard Higgins. Columbia.

Here we have a picture of gangsters and newspaper reporters as well as a murder mystery and a romance, but the plot is neither new or subtle and more than once leans heavily on our credulity. Mae Clark as usual gives a good performance.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — No

Children, 8 to 12 — No

♦

GIRL CRAZY » »

Eddie Quillan, Robert Woolsey, Kitty Kelly, Mitzi Green, Bert Wheeler. Direction by William Seiter. R.K.O.

"Girl Crazy" is a cross between a slap stick comedy and a burlesque. While the acting is passable and there are certain situations which might prove amusing to children, it really doesn't rank very high.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — Not recommended

Children, 8 to 12 — Not recommended

♦

THE GREEKS HAD A WORD FOR THEM »

Ina Claire, Joan Blondell, Madge Evans, Lowell Sherman. Direction by Lowell Sherman. United Artists.

We are growing a little weary of whatever it was that the Greeks had a word for. Though this farce is beautifully staged and the three leading actresses are cleverly chosen for their roles, the cynical audience may not laugh so heartily as it did at the play of almost the same name. Anything based on so sordid a theme must be scintillating in the extreme to overcome the average person's dislike for certain situations. The dialogue is very flippant and sometimes clever; the production is the apex of sophistication.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — No

Children, 8 to 12 — No

HEART OF NEW YORK » »

George Sidney, Joe Smith, Charles Dale, Ruth Hale, Anna Appel Donald Cook. Based on the play "Mendel, Inc." Direction by Mervyn Le Roy. Warner Brothers.

This is an amusing study of the Ghetto and its inhabitants, tracing the fortunes of a Jewish plumber and his family through alternate poverty and affluence. After the manner of Fannie Hurst the characterizations are both satiric and sympathetic, and the personnel includes the whole neighborhood, showing many types which seem authentic. Though some of the humor is unnecessarily coarse and adds nothing to the reality of the picture, the acting, direction and settings combine to make interesting entertainment.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — Entertaining

Children, 8 to 12 — Mature, but harmless

♦

LENA RIVERS » »

Charlotte Henry, Beryl Mercer, Morgan Galloway, James Kirkwood. Direction by Philip Rosen. Tiffany.

The old sentimental romance of "Lena Rivers" has now been brought to the screen and provides pleasant, if unstimulating entertainment. Here is a love story with a happy ending, colorful horse races, and some tuneful darky singing — and in addition a most attractive heroine, for Miss Henry's natural manner and charming personality make "Lena" very appealing.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — Not harmful

Children, 8 to 12 — No interest

♦

MAN WANTED » »

Kay Francis, David Manners. Direction by William Dieterle. First National.

Whether it was courage or stupidity that prompted the use of such unsavory and uninteresting material, we cannot see any excuse for this picture. Even French telephones and polo clothes have a limited appeal when the plot is stupid and illogical and the situations are a boring repetition of unpraiseworthy incidents.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — No!

Children, 8 to 12 — No!

♦

THE MENACE » »

H. B. Warner, Bette Davis, Walter Byron. Direction by Roy W. Neil. Columbia.

Little remains to be said about these mystery thrillers that has not already been

applied to others. Like a batter recipe which, with slight variations, produces muffins, pancakes, or waffles, the ingredients in these pictures are likewise mixed in different proportions and then turn out well or ill. But this story is a good one of its kind; an old murder mystery, an unjust conviciton, a gang of crooks, a Scotland Yard detective, two young lovers and an English estate as background, are the elements which are successfully worked out by the aid of competent acting and good direction, to provide an hour's diversion.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 A matter of taste

Children, 8 to 12 Too mature

◆

THE MIRACLE MAN » »

Sylvia Sidney, Chester Morris, John Wray, Ned A. Sparks, Robert Coogan, Hobart Bosworth. Direction by Norman McLeod. Paramount-Publix.

The effect of this picture will differ greatly with the type of individual who sees it and with his mood at the time of presentation. It relies for its appeal entirely on emotional quality devices, such as stirring or soft music, slow movement and other special technique being used to that end. The story tells of a group of professional scamps who come to a small town by chance and believe they have found an excellent field for their operations by exploiting a faith-healer, the Patriarch, whose simplicity and goodness, however, prove a bulwark against evil. The tone is distinctly moral in that wholesome living is upheld, but because of its theatrical effects this version is more obvious and at the same time less convincing than either the stage or silent version.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Fair

Children, 8 to 12 Too emotional

◆

PLAY GIRL » »

Loretta Young, Winnie Lightner, Norman Foster, Guy Kibbe, Dorothy Burgess. Direction by Ray Enright. Warner Brothers-First National.

In "Play Girl" we follow the misfortunes and misunderstandings of a young husband and wife. Although the plot is not unusual, the play is done in an interesting manner and succeeds in holding one's attention to the end. In spite of the number of scenes concerned chiefly with race tracks and gambling, the picture contains nothing really objectionable. Winnie Lightner and Guy Kibbe furnish excellent comic relief.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Passable

Children, 8 to 12 No

PROBATION » »

John Darrow, Sally Blane. Direction by Richard Thorpe. Distributed through Pacific Coast Exchange.

This silly production is the result of combining two inharmonious types of entertainment. From the title and opening scenes one expects a social problem drama showing modern youth running afoul of the Juvenile Court. Suddenly an unsophisticated love story develops in which the romance of a poor young man and a rich young girl is steered by a benevolent uncle towards an improbable happy ending. Bad taste and excessive drinking in certain portions of the picture might advantageously have been left out. The good cast is to be congratulated for preserving a modicum of charm and entertainment value.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Not recommended

Children, 8 to 12 No

◆

STEADY COMPANY » »

Norman Foster, June Clyde, Henry Armetta, Zasu Pitts. Direction by Edward Ludwig. Universal.

When Zasu Pitts is cast in a film one expects to laugh, and in "Steady Company" there is an opportunity for wholesome merriment. Henry Armetta as the lovable and devoted foster father is distinctly appealing. He takes the spot light. The plot is commonplace. A truck driver with pugilistic ambitions is engaged to a telephone operator. She is under the false impression that her fiance is in lofty pursuit of a medical career. In spite of the ringside atmosphere, which plays no small part in this picture, it is good clean fun.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Good

Children, 8 to 12 Harmless

◆

SYMPHONY OF SIX MILLION » »

Ricardo Cortez, Anna Appel, Irene Dunn, Noel Madison, Gregory Ratoff. Direction by Gregory LaCava. R.K.O.-Pathe.

The poverty and suffering of the Ghetto help to create a great surgeon, "Dr. Felix Klauber," who dedicates his skill to the poor and helpless. How he loses his high purpose —and finds it again—is an absorbing story told with great dramatic skill. Ricardo Cortez gives a memorable performance as the sensitive, brilliant young doctor. Because of its strong emphasis on human sacrifice and

suffering this picture is recommended only to adults and to adolescents who are emotionally mature.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Very intense
Children, 8 to 12 No

◆

THE TRIAL OF VIVIENNE WARE » »

Joan Bennett, Donald Cook, Zasu Pitts, Richard "Skeets" Gallaghar. Direction by William Howard. Based on the novel by Kenneth M. Ellis. Fox. (Seen in Preview.)

The murdered man in this case has been the fiance of Miss Ware (Joan Bennett) until the day of the tragedy. The attorney for Miss Ware (Donald Cook) has the double effort of defending a woman who is surrounded by incriminating circumstances and of fighting for the life of this same woman whom he loves. A cabaret dancer, two gangsters, a butler, a chauffeur, and a busy-body next door, all figure in the spectacular legal battle between the district attorney and Cook. Comedy relief is furnished by Zasu Pitts as a newspaper woman covering the case, and by "Skeets" Gallagher, a radio announcer broadcasting the trial. Interest never lags. The picture can be recommended to those who enjoy murder mysteries.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Not harmful
Children, 8 to 12 Not recommended

◆

VANISHING MEN » »

Tom Tyler, Yakima Canutt, Adele Lacy. Direction by Harry Fraser.

"Go get 'em, men!" is the dialogue theme of the cattle "rustlers" and the sheriff's posse in this western melodrama aboard a horse. The action is swift, the climaxes exciting, and the dialogue stilted. The sympathy of the audience is with the law and the redemption of a young "rustler," making the purport wholesome in spite of considerable gun play. Audiences will find the drama has average entertainment value.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Good
Children, 8 to 12 Good

◆

VANITY FAIR » »

Myrna Loy, Conway Tearle, Barbara Kent, Montague Love, Lionel Belmore. From the classic by Thackeray. Adapted by S. W. Herbert. Direction by Chester Franklin. Allied Pictures Corp.

The generation brought up on "Vanity Fair" will be most exacting as to its presentation. To them Myrna Loy's interpretation of "Becky Sharp" will not be satisfying. She misses the sly artfulness and sparkle of Thackeray's immortal heroine (and of Mrs. Fisk's stage interpretation). One feels her coldness and ruthlessness, but not "Becky's" undying charm. The task of condensing the long and involved novel and holding the characters to the original type in a modernized version has been very well done and deserves commendation. It is an interesting production, well worth seeing, but the thrilling quality of genius which has made "Vanity Fair" a great novel, is missing.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Mature
Children, 8 to 12 Too mature

◆

THE WISER SEX » »

Melvyn Douglas, Claudette Colbert, Lilyan Tashman. Based on play "Her Confessions," by Clyde Fitch. Direction by Berthold Viertel. Paramount-Publix.

A pleasing cast is wasted on another gangster story which is not sufficiently different to hold much interest. Swift action and exciting situations are its only asset. The plot concerns the sordid experiences of a young woman who enters the underworld in order to obtain proof to discredit circumstantial evidence against the man she wishes to marry. It is unconvincing, and there is nothing unusual enough about the production to warrant one's wasting an hour or more in intimate association with such objectionable characters.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 No
Children, 8 to 12 No

◆

THE WET PARADE » »

Lewis Stone, Walter Huston, Dorothy Jordan, Robert Young, Neil Hamilton, "Snozzle" Durante. Based on novel by Upton Sinclair. Direction by Victor Fleming. M.G.M.

"Mr. Chilcote," a Southern gentleman (Lewis Stone), by committing suicide, supplies the first tragedy in the parade of the misuse of liquor. The film then becomes a pictorial debate on the subject of prohibition, presenting the case without prejudice and drawing no conclusion. The treatment is chronological in showing the saloons, the war-time prohibition, the passing of the amendment and the present chaos of speakeasies, organized bootleggers and the failure of law enforcement. Here is intense drama, perfectly enacted throughout. A love story of Dorothy Burgess as "Maggie May Chilcote" and Robert Young as "Kip Tarleton," ties together the divergent elements. As entertainment "The Wet Parade" has emo-

tional appeal and stimulates thought, but offers little in the nature of relaxation. We recommend it highly as an exceedingly interesting presentation of a social problem.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Mature
Children, 8 to 12 Not suitable

◆

A WOMAN COMMANDS » »

Pola Negri, Roland Young, Basil Rathbone. Direction by Paul Stein. R.K.O.-Pathe.

A melodramatic and jumbled comedy romance of intrigue and revolution in a mythical kingdom handicaps Miss Negri in her "comeback" to pictures. It is interesting only as a vehicle for her. However, she is delightful, and the cast is excellent. If we care to overlook the story, the beautiful photography of old world sets and the personality of the stars will compensate.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Not recommended
Children, 8 to 12 No

YOUNG BRIDE » »

Helen Twelvetrees, Eric Linden, Arline Judge, Roscoe Ates, Polly Walters, Cliff Edwards. Direction by William Seiter. R.K.O.-Pathe.

Diligent search of this plot will reveal a few elements of entertainment, but these are obscured by vulgar scenes and situations, most of which occur in a dance hall of the lowest order. Helen Twelvetrees is almost saccharine in her portrayal of "Allie Smith," a children's librarian, in search of a Galahad. Eric Linden plays the braggart whom "Allie" marries. The rest of the cast provide a most realistic atmosphere of so-called "modern youth" having its fling. At best this picture is oor entertainment.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 No
Children, 8 to 12 Impossible!

SHORT SUBJECTS

◆

ATHLETIC DAYS » »

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer.

This is a demonstration of the old and new technique in various events included in the Olympic games. Young athletes will find the film of special interest. Recommended for the family.

◆

AUDIO REVIEW No. 9 » »

Pathe.

An interesting review showing the Alexander Caverns in Pennsylvania; a remarkable bass soloist; a curious Australian animal, and the clever Benda masks made by Mr. Benda and his wife.

◆

THE CAT'S CANARY » »

Aesop Fable. R.K.O.-Pathe.

This is an ingenious and entertaining fable in which the cat temporarily swallows the canary. To the consternation of all the fence prowlers, whenever the cat opens her mouth a warble is emitted. Recommended for the family.

◆

CROSBY, COLOMBO AND VALLEE » »

Pacific Title and Art Studio.

Animated cartoon introducing the popular radio crooners into an Indian Camp. Of fair interest.

DESERT REGATTA » »

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer.

Desert Regatta features outboard motor races on the Salton Sea, in which ten existing world's records are broken. Recommended for the family.

◆

FLY FROLIC » »

Aesop Fable. R.K.O.-Pathe.

An entertaining animated cartoon in which the spider in the case becomes a Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. The flies finally rescue his victim. Quite amusing for all.

◆

FLYING LEATHER » »

Grantland Rice Sportlight. R.K.O.-Pathe.

In the "manly art of self-defense" the distance between pre-school and collegiate boxing is effectively bridged by "Flying Leather." Recommended for the family.

◆

FREDDY, THE FRESHMAN » »

Pacific Title and Art Studio.

Animated cartoon in which animals go through college "stunts." A fair production, entertaining for children.

MOTION PICTURE REVIEWS

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FEATURE FILMS

◆

AVALANCHE » »

Leni Riesenstahl, Zepp Rist. Direction by Dr. Arnold Fanck. British International Film.

Gorgeous snow panoramas in the environs of Mount Blanc, as well as an intimate participation in skiing, weather reporting, and observing the moon through a huge telescope, supply enough thrills to make the simple story at times subservient in interest. There is a minimum of dialogue with no loss of dramatic opportunity, even though the tempo is very deliberate. This most interesting production is German made, presented in the English version, and is well synchronized. The sheer icy beauty of Mount Blanc is apparent to any age or nationality.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Excellent **Children, 8 to 12** Excellent

◆

THE BIG TIMER » »

Ben Lyon, Constance Cummings, Thelma Todd, Tony Dugan. Direction by Eddie Burzell. Columbia.

Those who enjoy boxing might like this picture, which tells the events in the life of a would-be champion. A charming girl (Constance Cummings) manages her egotistic bumptious husband (Ben Lyon), and guides him to success by sound advice. As a whole it is limited entertainment.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Not recommended **Children, 8 to 12** No

◆

BEHIND STONE WALLS » »

Robert Elliott, Eddie Nugent, Priscilla Dean, Ann Christy. Direction by Frank Strayer. Produced by Frank Strayer.

The only incident in this picture which reflects a wholesome attitude towards any human relationship is a son's Quixotic endeavor to assume his mother's guilt. Otherwise the plot dwells on infidelity, murder, blackmail and disloyalty, and these are not particularly well presented.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 No **Children, 8 to 12** No

◆

THE CROWD ROARS » »

James Cagney, Joan Blondell, Eric Linden, Ann Dvorak. Direction by Howard Hawks. Warner Bros. First National.

Only the most phlegmatic and hardened movie fan could sit through this picture without suffering. It is an endurance test for any

audience. From beginning to end, the spectators are in a state of harrowing suspense with the certainty that something frightful is about to happen, and skillful director Howard Hawks has neglected no opportunity of fulfilling every dreaded expectation. James Cagney has an unsympathetic part as a ruthless, conceited racing driver and the somewhat unpleasant plot is secondary in importance to the violent tragedy and horrors depicted. In the most devestating scene we have realism ad nauseum when a car with its occupant catches fire and careens around the course to the accompaniment of a deafening roar from the grandstands and the agonized shrieks of the victim. What may be entertainment for some audiences will be punishment for many.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Sophisticated and nerve racking

Children, 8 to 12 Certainly not

♦

DESTRY RIDES AGAIN » »

Tom Mix, Stanley Fields, Earle Fox, Claudia Dell. Direction by Ben Stoloff. Universal.

Tom Mix and his horse are never failing drawing cards for children and adults who thrill to the swift action of breezy western melodrama. Plot and dialogue are secondary when honest *Destry* triumphs over the wicked sheriff and gallops to romance on Tony's beautiful back.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Good

Children, 8 to 12 Excellent

♦

GRAND HOTEL » »

Greta Garbo, John Barrymore, Joan Crawford, Wallace Beery, Lionel Barrymore, Lewis Stone, Jean Hersholt. By Vicki Baum. Directed by Edmund Goulding. M.G.M.

There are any number of reasons why audiences will go to this picture, but to our mind the greatest factor in its sucess is neither the much advertised cast nor Vicki Baum's failure-proof play. The direction's the thing. Swift, clear-cut, decisive, logical, the direction blends the various plots, scattered scenes and diverse personalities into a completely satisfying unit. There is nothing superfluous, nothing out of balance. Whether or not each individual favorite comes up to expectations the picture is eminently worth while. Wallace Beery perhaps is more completely in character and less his usual screen self than any other member of the cast though Joan Crawford gives an almost flawless performance. The play is tragic, very realistic, almost totally unconventional, yet somehow not sordid. It is entertainment of the highest grade for sophisticated adult audiences.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Entirely unsuitable

Children, 8 to 12 No interest

HELL HOUSE » »

Junior Durkin, Pat O'Brien. Direction and story by Howard Higgin. Tech Art Studio.

A review of this picture was published in November, 1931, under the title "Juvenile Court."

♦

IT'S TOUGH TO BE FAMOUS » »

Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., Mary Brian, Walter Catlett, David Landau. Direction by Alfred E. Green. Warner Brothers-First National.

The treatment of this photoplay is not so light as the wording of the title suggests, for the story presents a very real problem. Fame that comes to a naval commander when heroism is suddenly thrust upon him, upsets his private life and almost wrecks his marriage. Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., as the naval commander, is an engagingly modest young man whose struggles to evade newspaper reporters and a hero-worshipping populace, will enlist the sympathy of his audiences. Though the theme may be of more interest to adults than to juniors, the picture offers first class entertainment for the family.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Good

Children, 8 to 12 Mature

♦

THE MAN FROM NEW MEXICO » »

Tom Tyler, Caryl Lincoln, Jack Richardson, Robert Walker. Direction by J. P. McGowan. Monogram.

Children enjoy direct action and uncomplicated motives. A beautiful heroine, a brave hero and a wicked villain, plus skillful riding and hard fighting, where right triumphs, make good entertainment for junior matinees. "The Man From New Mexico" is made according to the formula above and is unimportant to all but the younger members of the family.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Yes

Children, 8 to 12 Yes

♦

THE MOUTHPIECE » »

Warren William, Sidney Fox, Aline McMahon, William Janney. Direction by James Flood and Elliott Nugent. Warner Brothers.

Here is another of those films showing the machinations of lawyers, who for one reason or another, are affiliated with the underworld. This time Warren William as an assistant district attorney, mistakenly sends an innocent man to the electric chair. When he discovers what he has done, he alligns

himself with gangland against the courts, and indulges in most of the vices which are susceptible of being suggested on the screen. The performance of Warren William is so good that the picture will probably draw audiences in spite of the hackneyed material which it assembles.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 No

Children, 8 to 12 No

◆

NIGHT COURT » »

Walter Huston, Lewis Stone, Phillips Holmes, Anita Page, Noel Francis. From the play by Mark Hellinger and Charles Beahan. Direction by W. S. Van Dyke. M.G.M.

An involved and unpleasant plot makes this picture seem exhaustingly long. It shows, without mercy to the audience, the lengths to which an unscrupulous man will go to cover up his own wrong doing, and delves into the corruption of judges in a gang-ridden city (all, we suspect, with the purpose of turning out a bigger and better thriller). The subject, however, is interesting and holds one's attention in spite of its heaviness; the good cast give excellent performances in their respective roles.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 No

Children, 8 to 12 No

◆

PROBATION » »

John Darro, Sally Blane, Eddie Phillips, Mattie Kemp, J. Farrel MacDonald, Clara Kimball Young. Direction by Richard Thorpe. Distributed through Pacific Coast Exchange.

This silly production is the result of combining two inharmonious types of entertainment. From the title and opening scenes one expects a social problem drama, showing modern youth running afoul of the Juvenile Court. Suddenly an unsophisticated love story develops, in which the romance of a poor young man and a rich girl is steered by a benevolent uncle towards an improbable happy ending. Bad taste and excessive drinking in certain portions of the picture might advantageously have been left out. The good cast is to be congratulated for preserving a modicum of charm and entertainment value.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Not recommended

Children, 8 to 12 No

RADIO PATROL » »

Robert Armstrong, Lila Lee, Russell Hopton, June Clyde. Direction by Edward L. Cane. Universal. Seen in preview.

Were it not for a brutal murder scene that disqualifies this picture from recommendation to any audience, "Radio Patrol" might be good entertainment. It presents "Rookie School" and the problem of the police in maintaining a large enough force to keep crime in check. A love story of supreme sacrifice is the thread of narrative running through a series of exciting events which are culminated in the heroic death of an officer. Mr. Hopton, in the role of *Pat*, gives such a gripping portrayal that it is worthy of appreciative comment. It is to be hoped that the extreme horror will be eliminated before the final release.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Too ghastly

Children, 8 to 12 Nightmare provoking

◆

THE ROADHOUSE MURDER » »

Dorothy Jordan, Eric Linden, Purnell Pratt, Roscoe Ates. Direction by J. W. Ruben. R.K.O.

A new angle on the murder-mystery plot is shown in this play, wherein the "cub" reporter gains notoriety by impersonating a criminal. While the scheme leads him into desperate straits with the proffered lesson that publicity at such a price is to be avoided, nevertheless, the picture as a whole leaves an unhealthy taste of youth's zest for thrills, regardless of consequences. The play is full of action and suspense from the start, and at the end becomes harrowing.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Unsuitable

Children, 8 to 12 No

◆

SCANDAL FOR SALE » »

Charles Bickford, Pat O'Brien, Rose Hobart, Claudia Dell, J. Farrel MacDonald. Direction by Russel Mack. Universal Pictures Corp.

How every motive of love and friendship becomes subservient to the task of pandering to the public's desire for thrills and sensation, is shown in this play of yellow journalism. While it is realistic and intense, and some parts are noteworthy (the scenes of the end of the trans-Atlantic flight are powerful and beautifully photographed), it would be more effective if it did not run the whole gamut of human emotions. There is too much crime, too much scandal; it lacks the novelty and conviction of some of the earlier pictures of the press.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Too sensational

Children, 8 to 12 Decidedly not

SCARFACE » »

Paul Muni, Boris Karloff, Kareen Morley. Direction by Howard Hawks; Co-director Harry Rosson. Produced by Howard Hughes.

In "Scarface," which is the unvarnished biography of gangster *Tony Carmonte,* one may become intimately acquainted with an arch criminal, who is composite of all that has hitherto been divulged concerning real characters of the underworld. The picture is vivid, realistic, artistically and dramatically excellent, and one does not feel that it stretches plausibility unless in the concentration of so many atrocities in one film. However, it is a display of wholesale murder, of extreme brutality, and of horrifying disregard for law. Though the theoretical purpose of the film is to rouse the public to a combative attitude towards corruption, it falls short of its avowed intent because the conflict is almost entirely between rival gangsters, and the indirect threat to the public is secondary to our interest in the drama. Moreover *Tony,* magnificently enacted by Paul Muni, is a colorful and interesting character whose psychology and personal fortunes become the focus of our attention. We question the wisdom of showing such material indiscriminately to all types of audiences. Such films may actually do more harm than good; they most certainly cannot be recommended to immature audiences.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Emphatically no

Children, 8 to 12 Impossible

♦

SHOP-WORN » »

Barbara Stanwyck, Regis Toomey, Zasu Pitts, Albert Conti. Direction by Harry Cohn. Columbia.

With a title probably chosen to lure certain types of audiences, "Shop-Worn" is a trashy picture featuring a melodramatic heroine who suffers all the well-known ills of cruel fortune, and later becomes the happy fiancee of her first love. It is somewhat relieved by Zasu Pitts in a comedy role.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 No

Children, 8 to 12 No

♦

SINS PAYDAY » »

Dorothy Rivier, Forrest Stanley, Mickey McGuire. Direction by George Seitz. Mayfair Pictures-All Star Exchange.

Having saved a murderer from the death penalty, the defending lawyer eventually comes to the realization that he must share the responsibility for the criminal's subsequent crime. Mickey McGuire, as the small boy, *Chubby,* is the center of the humor, as well as of the tragedy in this film, which is set against a gangster background and pictures the degradation of a gentleman and his eventual redemption. The director deserves credit for the restraint with which he has selected and used his material.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 No

Children, 8 to 12 No

♦

SKY BRIDE » »

Richard Arlen, Tom Douglas, Jack Oakie, Louise Hale, Robert Coogan. Direction by Stephen Roberts. Paramount-Publix.

The adventures of three barnstorming aviators tense your muscles and pull your heartstrings in this thrilling production. Daring stunts and skillful maneuvers, shot through with pathos, are lightened by comic dialogue. Around this clean story, radiating good fellowship and loyalty, Stephen Roberts has directed one of the most expert productions of its kind.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Thrilling

Children, 8 to 12 Too emotional

♦

SO BIG » »

Barbara Stanwyck, Dickie Moore, Bette Davis. Direction by William A. Wellman. From the book by Edna Ferber. Warner Brothers.

Because of the period of years which it covers, the theme of "So Big" is developed in episodes. The resulting breaks in continuity may be overlooked, for the play itself is beautifully executed, definite in its purpose, and marked by a simplicity of treatment which is thoroughly wholesome. In the delineation of the principal character, the joy of doing, the satisfaction of achievement and the glory of self-earned success, prove greater compensations than the monetary reward for the effort, an idealism which is eventually transmitted to her son. The picture can be recommended for the family.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Interesting

Children, 8 to 12 Mature

♦

STATE'S ATTORNEY » »

John Barrymore, Helen Twelvetrees, Jill Esmond, William Boyd, Mary Duncan. Direction by George Archainbaud. R.K.O.

John Barrymore, cast as a defense attorney for the underworld, and subsequently state's attorney, plays the lead in another picture with the criminal background. The sophisticated plot is unfolded rapidly and displays

all the known modern vices and crimes, with the exception of kidnapping. Justice is shown to be ineffective against a political machine and selfiish interests. The presentation is sincere, the acting real, the direction notable, the dialogue crammed full of "wise cracks," but the subject matter is unwholesome and distasteful.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 No

Children, 8 to 12 Absolutely not

◆

STRANGE CASE OF CLARA DEANE »

Wynne Gibson, Pat O'Brien, Dudley Digges, Frances Dee, George Barbier, Russel Gleason, Cora Sue Collins. Direction by Louis Gasnier and Max Mercin. From the play by Arthur M. Brilant. Paramount-Publix.

A mother's supreme sacrifice for her child is the disheartening finis to this depressing drama. Cora Sue Collins, as the child, gives an outstanding natural performance. The cast is well chosen and the situations well developed. Gripping realities and emotional stress carry the plot to its tragic conclusion. The audience is impressed with the severe punishment meted out to transgressors, but meanwhile, all the sympathy is directed toward the unfortunate *Clara Deane*. "Strange Case of Clara Deane" offers heart throb tears, and hovering menace in lieu of entertainment.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Too depressing

Children, 8 to 12 No interest

◆

TARZAN » »

Johnny Weissmuller, Neil Hamilton, C. Aubrey Smith, Maureen O'Sullivan. Direction by W. S. Van Dyke. M.G.M.

The film follows the characters of the original book closely. From the kidnapping of *Jane Parker* to the struggle with the pygmies, many of the incidents in *Tarzan's* fictional career are shown. At times the melodrama is blood-curdling, but from the standpoint of photography and direction the picture has beauty and merit. The fascination of the jungle life and scenic beauty, coupled here with Johnny Weismuller's vigorous interpretation of *Tarzan,* develops a tale full of thrilling adventure.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Interesting

Children, 8 to 12 Very exciting

THIS IS THE NIGHT » »

Lily Damita, Charlie Ruggles, Roland Young, Thelma Todd. From a play by Avery Hopwood. Direction by Frank Tuttle. Paramount-Publix.

This lyric comedy is a sophisticated little piece, bright and clever, with piquant music and charming backgrounds of Paris and Venice. The cast has been chosen to accentuate the comedy, and the direction is unusually adept. *Claire* persuades her lover *Gerald* to take her to Venice, but her husband returns at the inopportune moment of departure, and it becomes necessary to secure a bogus wife for *Gerald* before the holiday begins. The dialogue and situations are adroitly handled but risque, even for seasoned audiences.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 No

Children, 8 to 12 No

◆

WHEN A FELLER NEEDS A FRIEND » »

Jackie Cooper, Chic Sale, Ralph Graves. From the novel "Limpy" by William Johnston. Direction by Harry Pollard. M.G.M.

In this comedy drama of child life we see a little lame boy gain confidence in himself through sympathetic understanding of an old uncle. Children should feel more kindly toward the handicapped after seeing this picture and there is a lesson in it for grown-ups as well. Chic Sale is excellent and Jackie Cooper plays with a sure touch on the heartstrings of the audience. Perhaps at some points the pathos is exaggerated but on the whole it is a picture that can be recommended for the whole family.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Good

Children, 8 to 12 Yes

◆

THE WOMAN IN ROOM 13 » »

Elissa Landi, Ralph Bellamy, Neil Hamilton, Myrna Loy, Gilbert Roland. Direction by Henry King. Fox.

The plot of this melodrama depends for its suspense upon the device of withholding until the bitter end, the obvious word of explanation. A man and woman who are ideally happily married, are made to suffer misunderstandings and jealousies, are dragged through a murder trial, and brought to the brink of separation, in order to satisfy the vengeful hate of the woman's former husband. Elissa Landi is charming and Ralph Bellamy, as the villain, truly venomous.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Unsuitable

Children, 8 to 12 No

THE WORLD AND THE FLESH » »

George Bancroft, Miriam Hopkins, Allan Mobray, George Stone, Mitchell Lewis. Direction by John Cromwell. Paramount-Publix.

Handicapped by a meaningless title, "The World and the Flesh" proves to be an eventful, swift moving story, dealing with the escape of a band of White Russians, and their capture by the Red sailors (on the Black Sea). It is unrelieved drama, the atmosphere tense with a sense of impending disaster, and always the sinister shadow of Sovietism looming over all. The parts are well taken, but the interest centers in locale and events, rather than in character development. Recommended only for adults who enjoy adventures in Russian realism.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 No — **Children, 8 to 12** No

YOUNG AMERICA » »

Spencer Tracy, Doris Kenyon, Beryl Mercer, Ralph Bellamy. From the play by Fred Ballard. Direction by Frank Borzage. Fox.

Into "Young America" is woven the appealing story of a waif, whose native impulses are fine, but invariably lead to his own undoing and keep him constantly in the shadow of the Juvenile Court. The film is balanced, vivid and excellently directed. The youthful actors are unusually skillful. The cast is well chosen and the picture, psychologically and socially, will interest the entire family. It is for the individual mother to decide whether or not the emotional strain may be too strong for her own child.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Good — **Children, 8 to 12** Emotional

SHORT SUBJECTS

♦

AUDIO REVIEW No. 10 » »

Pathe.

Audio Review No. 10 is an enchanting picture of deep sea life, showing examples of many unfamiliar types. A clear explanation accompanies the photographs. Interesting to the entire family.

♦

BEAUTIFUL AND DUMB » »

R.K.O.-Pathe.

This film stars Mary Nolan and Lew Cody in a short comedy, in which a gentleman burglar thinks he is outwitting his hostess, and his hostess knows she is outwitting him. Entertaining for all but the very young.

♦

THE CAT'S CANARY » »

Aesop Fable. R.K.O.-Pathe.

This is an ingenious and entertaining fable in which the cat temporarily swallows the canary. To the consternation of all the fence prowlers, whenever the cats opens her mouth a warble is emitted. Recommended for the family.

EMPIRE OF THE SUN » »

Vagabond Adventure. Produced by Van Beuren Corp. R.K.O.-Pathe.

The insular charm of the Orient during the cherry blossom festival opens this travelogue, and is followed by pictures of Oriental school life and exhibitions of sports. Interesting for the entire family.

♦

GAUNT » »

Talking Picture Epics.

A depressing and ironical production concerning theft, imprisonment, suicide. Best avoided in these days of so-called "depression," whether financial or mental.

♦

IDYLL OF SEVILLE » »

From a series called "Kendall-DeVally Operalogues." Educational Pictures Corp.

A condensed adaptation of the popular opera "Carmen," well sung, and colorful in action and settings. It will be enjoyed by all audiences.

LAND OF CHEWING GUM » »

Produced by Emma Lindsey Squier. Talking Picture Epics.

In Yucatan we are shown the plantations of sapodilla from the sap of which is derived chewing gum. The whole process is depicted, from the tapping of the trees to the shipping of the finished product. The film winds up with a betrothal in the old hacienda built by Cortez. All worth seeing.

♦

LAND OF THE FEATHERED SERPENT »

Produced by Emma Lindsey Squier. Talking Picture Epics.

The lost civilization of the Mayan people in Yucatan is the subject of this excellent travelogue. Workers who still speak Mayan are shown rebuilding the Pyramid of the Feathered Serpent. Entertaining and instructive for all.

♦

LASCA » »

Hobart Bosworth. Direction by Ben Holmes. Production by Ben Holmes and Leigh Jason.

Hobart Bosworth gives a masterful rendition of the poem "Lasca," by Frank Desprez. The graphic illustrations are not so impressive as the reciting voice. It is a pleasing novelty for the family.

♦

MAGIC ART » »

Aesop Fable. Produced by Van Beuren Corp. R.K.O.-Pathe.

This is an interesting cartoon in which two artists draw and their oddly assorted figures come to life, dancing and making music. Good for the entire family.

♦

MAD DOG » »

A Silly Symphony. Walt Disney. Columbia.

Mickey's dog accidentally swallows a cake of soap and is thought to be mad, causing much confusion and hilarity. Excellent fun for all.

♦

MICKEY CUTS UP » »

Walt Disney. Columbia.

One of Mickey's funniest exploits. Mickey wielding a lawnmower in the springtime is irresistible.

MY LADIES ESCAPADE » »

Produced by Kendall-DeVally. Educational Pictures Corp.

An epitomized version of "Martha," a twenty minute operalogue, handled with skill and charm in spite of poor photography. Good voices and splendidly conducted music stamp the film as an artistic and educational event. Recommended for the family.

♦

OLD SONGS FOR NEW » »

Paramount.

Musical reminiscenses in colored photography are orchestrated by George Stoll's band. The whole is costumed to the period. Recommended to all.

♦

PICTORIAL No. 8 » »

Paramount.

Pictorial No. 8 consists of three features. The first two are of historical and geographical interest, and the closing episode demonstrates an extraordinary development of certain technical skill. Recommended for the family.

♦

SCREEN SOUVENIRS » »

Paramount.

Opening with several valuable historical records, these old films further represent the thrillers and comics of early movie days, when "Tillie the Working Girl" made Mack Sennett famous. Retrospectively highly entertaining. Recommended for the family.

♦

SECOND PARADISE » »

Vagabond Series. R.K.O.-Pathe.

This picture of the exotic island of Ceylon takes us into a bewitching tropical world. Dark skinned, Aryan featured Singhalese move in an Eastern pattern across the film, as their customs and culture are caught by the camera. Recommended for the family.

♦

SECRETARY PREFERRED » »

R.K.O.-Pathe.

An emerald necklace valued at ten thousand dollars is the pivot of this sophisticated sketch from a Liberty Magazine "short, short story." Two crooks are cleverly outwitted in their plot by a "gold digging" secretary. "Sister, your racket has mine beat a mile," is the concluding line.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 No **Children, 8 to 12** No

A SLIP AT THE SWITCH » »

Chic Sale. R.K.O.

Novel and amusing comedy in melodramatic style, in which Chic Sale's characterization "makes" the picture.

♦

STOCKHOLM » »

Produced and photographed by John W. Boyle, A. S. C., and Ray Fermstrom. R. C. A. Recording. Produced in Multicolor. The first of "The World Wanderings" series.

The life in city street and surrounding territory is pictured in this fine multicolored cinema, taken of the handsome "Venice of the North." It was used as a compliment to Greta Garbo in the prologue to "Mati Hari." Beautiful and intensely interesting for the entire family.

♦

TAKE YOUR PICK » »

Grantland Rice Sportlight. R.K.O.-Pathe.

A picture of young America at play during that season of the year when Lake Placid lures the winter sportsman to icy summits while Miami draws lovers of aquatic activities south to tropical shores. Recommended for the family.

♦

VENDETTA » »

Direction by Howard Higgins. Produced by Kendall-DeVally. Educational Pictures Corp.

"Vendetta," based on the opera "Cavalleria Rusticana," is a delightful operalogue, picturesque and tuneful, and is heartily recommended to all audiences.

♦

WHIPPET RACING » »

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer.

An illustration of training whippets from puppyhood to adult racing champions constitutes the interest of this film. Recommended for the family.

♦

WHISPERING BILL » »

Chic Sale. Direction by Ben Holmes. Production by Ben Holmes and Leigh Jason.

This photographed poem is characterized by Chic Sale, who gives a creditable performance. "Whispering Bill" was written by Irving Bacheller. Interesting for the family.

♦

WAR IN CHINA » »

Descriptive narrative prepared by H. V. Kaltenborn. John S. Young, radio announcer. Educational Pictures Corp. (filmed with the official permission of Chinese General Yuan Kai-Shek).

A news reel type of picture, showing the devastation and havoc of the Japanese siege of Shanghai and neighboring towns. The Kaltenborn narrative is a sympathetic description of the suffering and terror of Chinese civilians. An interesting current topic for all audiences.

MOTION PICTURE REVIEWS

THE WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY CLUB
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

JUNE 1932

THE WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY CLUB
Los Angeles Branch American
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EDITORIAL

A unity of purpose and cooperation between organizations having the same objective is always essential for success in any undertaking, and the work of Better Films Committees is no exception to this rule. In fact, in no work are a definite plan and unified opinions more necessary, because the appeal for children's matinees and family night programs must come from the community, and the exhibiting end of the motion picture industry must be assured that the public will be whole-heartedly behind such an experiment. Southern California, because of its location near the source of motion picture supply, and the great interest this creates, has had its Better Films Committees over a period of many years. Junior matinees have existed for ten years, with varying degrees of success. In August, 1930, at the Women's University Club, the California Motion Picture Council was organized, drawing together more closely all the groups which had been working along the same lines. It includes the National Previewing groups, the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Campfire Girls, Girl Reserves, Y.M.C.A., Librarians, and a number of groups interested in civic work and child welfare. The following outline of the method of operation and the purpose of the Council is reprinted here, because it may be of service to other groups wishing to work on this subject.

It was prepared by

Mrs. John Vruwink (President)
Women's University Club, Los Angeles Branch A.A.U.W.

Mrs. William Burk (Vice-President)
General Federation of Women's Clubs

Mrs. Leo Hodges
California Congress of Parents and Teachers

The California Motion Picture Council

The California Motion Picture Council is an impartial group of representative organizations especially interested in child welfare, working together for better motion picture programs for children and adolescents, and cooperating in educational programs to stimulate a realization of the necessity for selective entertainment for youthful audiences.

METHOD OF OPERATION

I. It is a clearing house for available information on current releases.

Reports of this Council are the concensus of opinion of the groups previewing through the courtesy of the Associa-

tion of Motion Picture Producers and Distributors, at the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences in Hollywood. The previewing committee, meeting every two weeks for consultation in compiling the lists, represent the following organizations:

Women's University Club, Los Angeles Branch A.A.U.W.
General Federation of Women's Clubs
National Daughters of the American Revolution
International Federation of Catholic Alumnae
California Congress of Parents and Teachers
National Society of New England Women
National Council of Jewish Women
United Church Brotherhood

The reports are accepted and used by the members of the council not having the facilities or privilege of previewing daily.

The bi-monthly reports are available to community councils upon receipt of stamped, addressed envelopes sent to Mrs. David Ray, Preview Chairman, 1235 South First Street, Arcadia, Calif.

As these reports are the *only lists of films* which are the *united* judgment of all of the previewing groups, it is suggested that they be accepted and used by communities sponsoring junior matinees and family night programs. It will eliminate discussion, satisfy the theatre managers, and present an united opinion on pictures. Assurance is given that the greatest care is taken in the compilation of the recommended lists.

II. It is a clearing house for work done by other community councils and fosters the formation of similar groups, aiding them in any way possible.

III. Suggestions for organizations and procedure of community councils.

(a) *Membership of Community Councils*
Membership should consist of representatives of all local organizations, i.e., civic, educational, patriotic, religious, welfare organizations, libraries, etc. (Men's groups as well as women's should be included.) These representatives should be officially appointed by the organizations they represent.

(b) *Officers*
Officers should include President, Vice-President, Secretary, Press Chairman, Chaperone Chairman. The office of Treasurer is dependent upon the organization procedure.
The Executive Committee requires great care in selection. It should represent all the organizations most actively interested in the work, should be composed of persons with time to give to the project, tact to handle the problems, and personality to "put the project over."

(c) *Meetings*

1. Meetings of the Executive Committee should be held frequently and regularly to handle the problems which constantly arise, to plan or supervise the programs, and to plan for stimulating interest and cooperation.
2. Meetings of the official representatives forming the Council should be held periodically to keep the cooperating groups informed and interested. Failure of these members to attend the meetings will indicate a lack of interest and the Executive Council will be justified in requesting a successor to replace the delinquent representative.
3. Open meetings should also be held less frequently, with speakers selected to arouse public interest in the project. These are a very successful method of publicity.
4. Meetings with theatre managers are, of course, a required procedure.

(d) *Programs*
The purpose of the "Junior Matinee" is not to attract children to the movies. It is to safeguard them and to educate parents in selective entertainment. A standard for these programs which has proved practical through years of experiment, is as follows:

1. Length of program should not exceed two hours. (The obvious reason for this relates to children's physical, nervous and emotional endurance.)
2. Type of program:
   (a) *One* feature length film approved by the National Previewing Committee of the California Motion Picture Council. (No film is appropriate for the child under eight or nine years. Parents of younger children must realize this.)

(b) Approved short subject. Comedies, cartoons, newsreels and educational shorts.

(c) Serials are discouraged because they are too emotional and exciting.

(d) Singing on the part of youthful audiences is to be encouraged.

(e) If additional entertainment is given by children on the stage, it is recommended that *group* performances are to be preferred to those of talented *individuals.*

(e) *Publicity*

1. Through each organization represented.
2. Through bulletin boards of libraries, Y. M. C. A., Y. W. C. A., clubs, etc.
3. Through published channels.
   (a) Recommended lists of films.
   (b) News stories of the activities of the Council and the matinees.
4. Trained speakers to go before service clubs, women's clubs, P. T. A. groups, etc.

(f) *Chaperones*

Tactful mothers should be in regular attendance. Their duties depend upon the attitude and wishes of the management of the theatre.

(g) *Contact with the Theatre Managers*

Theatre managers are usually more than willing to cooperate in any constructive movement which represents the wishes of the community. An *united* group is necessary. A tactful "go between" who is intelligently familiar with theatre problems should be selected for the contact.

An avoidance of censorship in discussion or practice is necessary in order to obviate an impression of intolerance and to secure cooperation. A constructive method of cooperation in this respect is bringing the attention of the public to the finer films and to encourage attendance for these pictures.

"Family night" programs for Friday or Saturday nights make possible a wider range of film selection and are to be encouraged because they meet an even greater need in reaching adolescents. In many communities they are in greater demand than junior matinees.

FEATURE FILMS

◆

AS YOU DESIRE ME » »

Greta Garbo, Melvyn Douglas, Eric Von Stroheim, Owen Moore. From the play by Lugi Pirandello. Direction by George Fitzmaurice. M.-G.-M.

Admirers of Miss Garbo will not be disappointed, we believe, in this production, heralded as her last. While it is not the best plot she has had, it does give her an opportunity of delineating decided changes in character, from the hard, bitter mistress, through a period of doubt and retrospection, to a charming, happy woman who personifies youth. In this last character she is utterly delightful, a happy return to the lovely, lyric beauty who charmed Sweden in "Gosta Berling." In plot, it tells a story of amnesia, of the culmination of a ten-year search for a woman who is a victim of the horrors of war, and we are left almost certain that the husband's search has been successful. The story is well told, with an excellent cast, and the pictorial surroundings are lovely.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Not harmful for older adolescents

Children, 8 to 12 No

▼

THE DOOMED BATTALION » »

Louis Trenker, Tala Birell, Victor Varconi, Henry Armetta. Direction by Cyril Gardner. Universal.

The futility of war is depicted in a new setting, the Italian stronghold of "The Doomed Battalion." Two close friends, one Italian the other Austrian, who have spent long hours together climbing their beloved Alps, are forced through the world conflict to become enemies. Loyal and courageous, they give themselves to the countries which claim them. We see these men reunited afterwards, and again climbing the battle-scarred mountains, all this in glorious photography. Handled simply and sincerely and with great

dramatic force, this picture has a strong appeal. It is a new treatment of the war theme. To heighten its reality, a particularly well chosen cast of foreign types has been assembled.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Good

Children, 8 to 12 Depressing

▼

THE FAMOUS FERGUSON CASE » »

Joan Blondell, Grant Mitchell, Vivienne Osborne, Tom Brown. Direction by Lloyd Bacon. Warner Bros.

This drama is another rap at the methods of yellow journalism, this time shown in contrast with the more enlightened and ethical procedure of good newspaper reporting. When a nationally known financier is murdered in a small town, city reporters flock to the scene. One faction, determined to get a story at any cost, manufactures scandal and tragedy, while the others hunt for real clues and the local reporter solves the mystery. The underlying idea is interesting, and the theme is well presented for adult audiences. In spite of humorous touches and the youth and wholesomeness of the hero, the ugly problems involved make a rather grim picture.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Not advised

Children, 8 to 12 No

▼

FAST COMPANIONS » »

Andy Devine, James Gleason, Tom Brown, Maureen O'Sullivan, Mickey Rooney. Direction by Kurt Neumann. Universal Pictures Corp.

Racing, fair and foul, is the background for this comedy. A professional jockey employing dishonest methods for his own and his partner's aggrandizement, is suddenly inspired to right about face and to set an example to a misguided waif who crosses his path. While the child changes his entire point of view, the questionable antics of the lovable little gamin may be remembered by children long after his reform is forgotten. (Note for parents with impressionable children.) Unhackneyed, with a certain degree of charm, this simple drama has elements both of pathos and of humor. It is the type of theme which elicits innumerable chuckles. The direction is adequate and the actors real and satisfying.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Entertaining

Children, 8 to 12 Yes

FORGOTTEN COMMANDMENTS » »

Gene Raymond, Marguerite Churchill, Irving Pichel, Sari Maritza. Direction by Louis Gasnier and William Schorr. Paramount-Publix.

"Forgotten Commandments" is evidently intended as a preachment on the unsoundness of Russian communistic theories. It shows in modern Russian setting, that the idea of loyalty to the state, rather than to the family is not tenable because basic human loyalties do not permit a practical application. The scientist and communist becomes merely a jealous lover when his personal rights are infringed. The producers had an opportunity to present an interesting objective picture on social doctrines, but the method of presentation confuses the issue and it is only another plain spoken drama on the subject of extra-marital relationships. The interpolated scenes from Cecil De Mille's "Ten Commandments" attract attention as a revival, but add nothing to the story, and suffer by comparison with modern technique.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 No—Objectionable

Children, 8 to 12 No

▼

GHOST VALLEY » »

Tom Keene, Merna Kennedy, Mitchell Harris, Kate Campbell. Direction by Fred Allen. R.K.O.

If the family has a leaning toward Western melodrama made according to the usual formula (hard riding, straight shooting and much fighting), by all means go to see "Ghost Valley" and take the children!

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Good

Children, 8 to 12 Good

▼

HUDDLE » »

Ramon Novarro, Madge Evans, Una Merkel, Ralph Graves. Direction by Sam Wood. M.G.M.

Although Hollywood cannot refrain from putting its own touch upon certain phases of collegiate life, "Huddle" has a charm and dignity which many college pictures lack. It is the story of a steel foreman's son who wins a scholarship at Yale, and the authentic background of "Old Eli" adds greatly to the interest. The boy, who is egotistical and crude when he enters the University, learns in his four years the value of tradition, of good sportsmanship, and of scholarship. It is a football story with an unexpected twist of realism in its dénouement. The most colorful and delightful scenes center around the Italian hero's home life in which

Henry Armetta, as the father, gaves an outstanding performance. It is good entertainment for all ages.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Entertaining — **Children, 8 to 12** Good

▼

LETTY LYNTON » »

Joan Crawford, Robert Montgomery, Nils Asther, Lewis Stone, May Robson. Direction by Clarence Brown. From a novel by Mrs. Belloc-Lowndes. M.G.M.

Letty is an exceedingly unconventional young woman, but she regrets her past indiscretions when she falls in love with a nice young man. In attempting to extricate herself from an entanglement with an unscrupulous South American, she encounters serious difficulties and is saved from a murder charge only by the timely lies of her mother and her fiancé. With little variation "Letty Lynton" is "Dishonored Lady," in which Catharine Cornell starred on the stage. In spite of disgraceful ethics and a plot that reads like arrant trash, this picture is skilfully directed and photographed, well acted and deftly handled in its entirety. One regrets that the subject matter is not more worthy of its superior treatment.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Most unsuitable — **Children, 8 to 12** No

▼

MAN ABOUT TOWN » »

Warner Baxter, Karen Morley, Conway Tearle. Direction by John Francis Dillon. Fox.

Official Washington is the background for an inconsistent melodrama in which good actors partly redeem the poorly constructed tale. The reaction to the situations presented is that if the heroine must commit a murder it is well to have a fiancé in the government service who will unflinchingly forsake duty and life for his loved one.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 No — **Children, 8 to 12** Unsuitable

▼

MARKED MEN » »

Tom Mix, Lucille Powers, Willard Robertson. Direction by Edward Laemmle. Universal. (Seen in preview.)

This is a typical Tom Mix Western played before interesting scenery and has the usual quota of heroism, rapid riding and mass gun play. The story concerns an outlaw gang and their capture. There are thrills, romantic flights, and pioneer characters, all given in sincere "Western" style.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Good — **Children, 8 to 12** Good

▼

MERRILY WE GO TO HELL » »

Sylvia Sidney-Fredric March. From the story, "I, Jerry, Take Thee Joan," by Cleo Lucas. Direction by Dorothy Arzner. Paramount-Publix.

The appeal of this picture will be limited. It is a story of the demoralizing effect of liquor and no doubt depicts with realism certain phases of life which can be duplicated in any modern city, but many will feel that the point could have been made with less insistance on unsavory and vulgar details. Sylvia Sydney and Fredric March are excellent in their respective roles as the young wife and the reporter-playwright, while the directorship gives more power and distinction to the production than it deserves.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Very unwholesome — **Children, 8 to 12** No

▼

THE MIDNIGHT LADY » »

Sarah Padden, John Darrow, Claudia Dell, Lina Basquette. Direction by Richard Thorpe. Universal. (Seen in preview.)

Murder, martyred motherhood, racing youth, selfish grandmother, unhappy family life, artist roué, are all elements that make up this sordid melodrama. Interest is sustained by complications rather than by direct story. All of the unplesant situations possible are embodied into a mediocre plot with a few high lights of heavy dramatic character portrayal.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 No — **Children, 8 to 12** No

▼

MIDNIGHT PATROL » »

Regis Toomey, Betty Bronson. From a story by Arthur Hoerl. Direction by Cristy Cabanne. Monogrom-C. C. Burr.

The police may feel their rights infringed upon, as it is a cub reporter who again unravels the mystery in this picture. While it is built upon a sordid situation, the principal characters are young and clean-minded, and it is not objectionable in tone. It is, however, chaotic melodrama with lack of dramatic emphasis and will not be remembered long after the final curtain.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Doubtful — **Children, 8 to 12** Not suitable

MISLEADING LADY » »

Claudet Colbert, Edmund Lowe, Stuart Erwin, Robert Strong. Direction by Stuart Walker. Paramount-Publix.

An excellent cast do their best for a stupid, uneven story which is neither farce, drama nor comedy. A bored rich girl tries to convince a producer that her allure is sufficient to warrant a leading role in his new play. She proceeds to demonstrate this aforementioned quality in the usual banal situations such as: abduction by a strong silent explorer—a lonely mountain cabin, and—finally *true love*. Apparently the producer is satisfied by this artistic display. Not so the long-suffering audience. The recommendation is to stay home from this one!

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Certainly not

Children, 8 to 12 No

▼

NIGHT WORLD » »

Lew Ayres, Boris Karloff, Hedda Hopper, Mae Clark, Bert Roach. Direction by Hobart Henley. Universal.

Behind the scenes in a night club, the audience is allowed to witness bits of drama in the lives of the proprietor, his wife, the dancing master, one of the girls, a chance customer and the inevitable gangster. The story is a heterogeneous collection of coincidences and does not unfold smoothly. The atmosphere is unpleasant with an over-emphasis of tawdriness, in spite of the unsullied innocence of the juvenile leads.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 No

Children, 8 to 12 Certainly not

▼

NO GREATER LOVE » »

Alexander Carr, Betty Jane Graham, Dickie Moore, Beryl Mercer, Alec B. Francis. Direction by Lew Seiler. Foy Productions, Ltd. (Released by Columbia.)

This tear-stained melodrama stretches credulity and good judgment in drawing a comparison between institutional and home life. In the tenement world a bereft and crippled child is cared for by a kindly Jew whose love and devotion leads him to invest his entire capital in her medical care. Hackneyed in plot, and badly overdrawn, it will still have its human appeal in the old man's beautiful portrayal of great self-sacrifice to his small charge, and the child's reciprocal warmth of feeling and appreciation. Bits of humor relieve the tragic scenes, and a remarkably fine cast will induce further interest. It is entertaining, even though full of emotional appeal.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Fair

Children, 8 to 12 Of interest—if not too tragic

▼

PASSPORT TO PARADISE » »

Jack Mulhall, Blanche Mahaffey. Direction by George Senter. Weeks Production. (Seen in preview.)

An amusing story woven about a whimsical provision of a will fails to convince due to the fairy tale complications, including a princess regaining her throne by revolution and losing it again via the same method, and a stow-away promoted to a ship's officer en voyage. The dramatic value is undeveloped and the production wholesomely treated, but there is nothing outstanding to recommend.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Not harmful

Children, 8 to 12 Not harmful

▼

THE RICH ARE ALWAYS WITH US » »

Ruth Chatterton, George Brent, Adrienne Dore, Bette Davis. Direction Alfred E. Green.

"You are the most beautifully civilized person I know," says *Julian* (George Brent) to *Caroline* (Ruth Chatterton), as they lunch together in a fashionable restaurant. If being civilized means maintaining one's equilibrium under stress, this is a true estimate, for *Caroline* becomes disillusioned about her husband's fidelity, concedes him a divorce and repels a too ardent suitor with admirable savior faire and undiminished sweetness. The picture continues for seventy-one minutes because she cannot overcome her maternal solicitude for her ex-husband or forget her duty as a former wife long enough to acknowledge her love for *Julian*. Though advertised under its inappropriate title as a light and sparkling comedy, this production is almost heavily tragic at times and the theme is certainly not cheerful. Only the extremely good performance of Miss Chatterton and Mr. Brent gives the production any claim to distinction. The cast is spotty, the plot vague, the direction wavering, the sophistication exaggerated. On the whole the picture is not convincing.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Demoralizing

Children, 8 to 12 No

THE RIDER OF DEATH VALLEY » »

Tom Mix, Lois Wilson. Direction by Albert Rogell. Universal Pictures Corp.

The struggle for possession of a gold mine, with clearly defined heroism and wickedness, forms the basis of the plot. The cast is much better than one ordinarily finds in a Western, and all give a good performance including the beautiful intelligent horse, Tony. Photography of the desert country with shadows passing overhead is outstanding. As a whole it is a good family picture, although there are rather tense moments for the youngest and most impressionable members.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Good

Children, 8 to 12 Good although very exciting

▼

RESERVED FOR LADIES » »

Leslie Howard, Benita Hume, George Goldsmith. Story by Ernest Vadja. Directed in Paramount's English studio by Alexander Korda. Paramount-Publix.

Leslie Howard is cast as a headwaiter of a fashionable London hotel, and is the darling of the ladies and the friend of their escorts. Complications ensue when he falls in love. The charm with which this English production is endowed is a decided attraction. Settings, casting, diction are very fine, and Mr. Korda's skillful direction in deftly handling the more sophisticated portions is to be commended. It is a delightful comedy: witty, satirical, amusing.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Not harmful

Children, 8 to 12 No interest

▼

SOCIETY GIRL » »

Peggy Shannon, Walter Byron, James Dunn, Spencer Tracy. Direction by Sidney Sanfield. Fox.

Hollywood's idea of a "Society Girl" is, to put it mildly, astonishing! Peggy Shannon, as a society girl spoiled, and bored with a life of gaiety, recuperates with a young prize-fighter (much to his detriment). But neither bad grammar on his part nor easy morals on hers, succeed in hindering the course of true love. The actors are well cast, and some will enjoy the training and fight scenes, but the tone of the whole is unwholesome and the story absurd.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 No

Children, 8 to 12 No interest

THE STRANGE LOVE OF MOLLY LOUVAIN

Anne Dvorak, Lee Tracy. From "Tinsel Girl," by Maurine Watkins. Direction by Michael Curtiz. Warner Bros.

"The Strange Love of Molly Louvain" with its sordid details might be the case history of some unfortunate girl delinquent. Deserted by her mother, betrayed by a lover, kept by a gangster and rescued by a newspaper reporter, *Molly* is amusing but pathetic, brave, tough and sentimental. Lee Tracy does exceedingly well as a type of breezy "wise guy" whose quick wit is entertaining, but not original. After the overdose offered in the past few months, police headquarters, gangster parties and newspaper offices are growing decidedly less interesting. We see nothing in this picture to weigh against the staleness of its material. The implied happy ending is incongruous.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Pernicious

Children, 8 to 12 Certainly not

▼

THE TENDERFOOT » »

Joe E. Brown, Ginger Rogers, Lew Cody. Direction by Ray Enright. Warner Bros.-First National.

In this picture Joe E. Brown plays the role of a garrulous country boy from Texas, punctuating his remarks with many "Whoopees!" He arrives in the city and is immediately swindled by some theatrical producers. Later he gets the better of them by a ludricous *coup d'etat* and earns for himself the reputation of a great satirist. Without a doubt children will love this. It is full of action and good clean comedy, and it will not disappoint the "fans" who should know by now what to expect.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Very entertaining

Children, 8 to 12 Good fun

▼

TWO SECONDS » »

Edward G. Robinson, Vivienne Osborne. Adapted from stage play by Elliott Lester. Direction by Mervyn LeRoy. Warner Bros.

This is unrelieved tragedy, the grim and ugly events which caused a simple, kindly man to murder the woman who wrecked his life. In two seconds, as the current is turned on in the electric chair, he relives his experiences. Two shocking scenes harrow the spectator almost to the breaking point. One where his follow riveter falls from the steel construction to his death; the other where Robinson screams his denunciation of punishment for murder, when he believes that living on the wages of a kept woman was the greater crime. As a study in psychology it

holds possible interest, and Mr. Robinson gives an excellent characterization of the bewildered victim who goes to pieces under the strain. But it is sordid and ugly and not always convincing in details. It is not entertainment in any sense.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Absolutely not

Children, 8 to 12 Absolutely not

WEEK-END MARRIAGE » »

Loretta Young, Norman Foster. Direction by Thornton Freeland. Warner Bros. (Seen in preview.)

This picture gets off to a fast start, promising a degree of excellence which unfortunately it fails to realize. Apparently it is an attempt to show that a wife can't keep both her office job and her husband, especially if she earns more money than her spouse. Man needs to be looked after and fussed over; if his wife leaves him to his own devices he will drink too much and some other woman will usurp her perogatives. Loretta Young as a charming and successful young business woman discovers that she has been less successful as a wife, and rather unexpectedly gives up her career. Whatever one's "idée fixe" on the thesis of the plot, a pretty heroine, romance and comedy combine to make this film sufficiently entertaining.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Hardly suitable

Children, 8 to 12 No interest

WESTWARD PASSAGE » »

Ann Harding, Laurence Olivier, Irving Pichel. From the novel by Margaret Ayer Barnes. Direction by Robert Nelson. R.K.O.

"Westward Passage" as a novel was a lightly diverting story of a selfish woman who desired to have her cake and eat it, too. It was confused in ethics but at least presented a consistent characterization of a woman who left her first husband because his artistic temperament and lack of funds made living too difficult, who marries a sincerely devoted and wealthy American of German descent, and then, attracted again by the man she left, now a successful novelist, tries to return to him but cannot adapt herself to the mode of life necessary to his success. The picture, while following this same general outline, is more confused morally, and the theme seems trivial and illogical. The casting of Miss Harding as "Olivia" is unfortunate because she appears too "real" a person to descend to the depths of disloyalty and selfishness she is called upon to portray. The dialogue is at times wordy, at others sophisticatedly witty. The direction is good, except that it lacks finesse. While the cast insures interest, the production is somewhat dull and incredible.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Unsuitable

Children, 7 to 12 No

SHORT SUBJECTS

◆

ALL AROUND TOWN » »
Educational Pictures, Inc.

This Hodge Podge number contains miscellaneous views of life in New York. It is fairly interesting because of its variations and has educational elements, but it is not outstanding because the subject matter has been used too often before.

▼

BARNYARD OLYMPICS » »
Mickey Mouse. Walter Disney. Columbia.

Mickey Mouse goes Olympic. Especially good fun for all.

▼

BEES AND BEARS » »
Silly Symphony. Walter Disney. United Artists.

A particularly charming and diverting cartoon, from both musical and pictorial viewpoint. Recommended for all.

▼

BOULDER DAM » »
Talking Picture Epics. Accompanying description by Pat Dowling.

Excellent. Shows the progress made, gives a good idea of the problems involved and what is expected to be accomplished.

▼

CAMERARING IN CANADA » »
Talking Picture Epics. Principal Distributing Corporation. Comments by Catherine Hilliker.

Wilderness of Canada twenty-four hours from New York, fisherman's and hunter's delight. Excellent subject, but again inane and silly comments.

▼

CAMERARING IN BORNEO » »
Talking Picture Epics. Principal Distributing Corporation. Comments by Catherine Hilliker.

Native and natural life shown in pictorial beauty, but marred by inane commentary.

▼

CAMERARING IN IGUASSU » »
Talking Picture Epics. Principal Distributing Corporation. Comments by Catherine Hilliker.

Breath-taking beauty of this river and jungles in Brazil, caught by wonderful photography. The facetious comments could easily be dispensed with.

CAMERARING ON THE PACIFIC » »
Talking Picture Epics. Principal Distributing Corporation. Comments by Catherine Hilliker.

Guadalupe Island off the coast of Peru, refuge for birds, sea lions, etc. Offensive comments mar film.

▼

FLOWERS AND TREES » »
Silly Symphony. Walter Disney. United Artists.

Against a background of good music, flowers awake and the trees indulge in romantics. A good short for any program, especially children's matinees.

▼

HAPPY POLO » »
Aesop Fable. Van Buren Corp.-R.K.O.

A delightful, impossible animated cartoon in which a mouse hero plays polo on a jointed wooden toy horse and rescues a mouse heroine pursued by a villainous cat. Perfect for children. Lovely nonsense for anyone.

▼

ISLAND OF PERILS » »
Produced by Sol Lesser. Directed by Captain Sten De Nordenskiold.

"Island of Perils" is a most unusual and interesting travelogue giving us intimate glimpses of the life and customs of the Islands of Faroe.

▼

JUST DOGS » »
Silly Symphony. Walter Disney. United Artists.

In this animated cartoon dogs of all shapes and sizes are released from the pound by an enterprising bull pup. Amusing for children, but not up to the Disney standard.

▼

PATHE AUDIO REVIEW No. 11 » »
Produced and Released by R.K.O.-Pathe.

Three subjects are included in this review. The first is exquisite photography of the cathedral Notre Dame de Chartres. The second shows an American presenting rouge, powder and lingerie to Eskimo women in Labrador in return for raw fish and blubber. In the third the Hill Billies give several cowboy songs with unexpected charm.

THE PROWLERS » »

Educational Pictures, Inc.

Native life in central Africa is the subject with special emphasis upon the hunters' dangers from predatory animals. Exceptional camera shots give an excellent idea of the habits of various beasts. Interesting and instructive for all.

SPEEDWAY » »

Educational Pictures, Inc.

Several speed kings of the automobile race track demonstrate their skill. There are close-ups of two or three terrific accidents which make it undesirable for sensitive children, and the newsreel type of presentation detracts from its interest. Its chief appeal will be to "fans" of automobile racing.

SEEN IN SYRIA » »

Talking Picture Epics. Principal Distributing Corporation. Comments by Catherine Hilliker.

From Beirnt, with its American University, to Damascus; beautifully photographed and accompanied by pleasantly informative commentary.

SPRING ANTICS » »

Aesop Fable. Van Buren Corp.-R.K.O.

With the departure of winter, spring is proclaimed by the ground hog whom we see leading an orchestra. The animals have checked their fur coats, and there is consternation when a belated snowfall interrupts the festivities. Entertaining for all ages.

TRAIL OF THE SWORDFISH » »

Educational Pictures, Inc.

A long, losing battle with a swordfish is shown. Interesting sound effects, good description and excellent photography.

WRESTLING SWORDFISH » »

Educational Pictures, Inc.

This Mack Sennett film depicts various types of deep sea fish in Southern waters and winds up with the struggle involved in landing a large shark. The second-rate monologue may be overlooked, since the picture is beautifully taken. Interesting for everyone, especially for junior boys.

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MOTION PICTURE REVIEWS

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EDITORIAL

The object of this bulletin is to assist our friends, young and old, to select the motion picture best suited to their tastes. That many of our youthful friends have accepted our suggestions in the spirit intended is gratifying, and we were very much interested in the following survey by students to find out just what high school and grammar school pupils really liked. We reprint the following article by Lois Smyth, from the Los Angeles School Journal, with permission of Miss Helen Moore, under whose supervision the survey was made. We believe that it shows that selective attendance (not censorship as the young writer puts it), is advisable, especially among the younger male students who admit that war and gangsters have the greatest general appeal.

STUDENT SURVEY OF MOVIE PREFERENCES

By LOIS SMYTH, *A12, Abraham Lincoln High School*

A movie survey which was made this semester of 1400 students, who ranged from the seventh to the twelfth grades, has proved to be one of the most interesting projects ever undertaken by the Daily Railsplitter of Lincoln High School at Los Angeles.

For more than a year previous to the survey, the Railsplitter had printed resumés of the movie reviews which are published monthly in pamphlet form by the Los Angeles Women's University Club and the D. A. R. It was agreed that the critics who wrote the reviews recommended for adolescents movies that were very much worth while. However, interest was aroused in what the students themselves preferred, whether their choice of movies was good enough to make unnecessary the more strict motion picture censorship which women's clubs are advocating all over the country.

Ideas formulated into actions. Sheets of paper were mimeographed and passed to the home-room teachers. The sheets were entitled, "What kind of movies do you prefer?" and asked for the following information of each individual student: initials, (to assure an authentic vote), sex, grade, and choice of movies (name of movie, star, or type of picture). No definite answers were required of the boys and girls, as the idea of the survey was to obtain statements from them which would best express their true opinion of their motion picture entertainment.

Some of the results proved to be so inter-

esting that it was decided to extend part of the investigation to a few of the nearby grammar schools. And so, with the kind co-operation of their principals and teachers, the 7th and 8th grade pupils of three schools were questioned as to how often they attended the movies and what kind they liked the best, we were greatly interested when each school handed in widely different results.

GRAMMAR SCHOOL RESULTS

The one in which most of the students have American-born parents, had the following conclusions: One boy never went to the movies, eight went seldom, eight went once in two weeks, twenty-six went once a week, and fifteen went from two to six times a week. Of these boys, twenty preferred War pictures, eighteen Comedy, seventeen Western, one Gangster, and not even one vote was cast for romance.

In the same school, three girls never went to the show, eleven but seldom, eight once in two weeks, twenty-five once a week, and ten went at least two times a week. Of them, eighteen liked Comedy pictures the best, fifteen Western, eight Love films, five Gangster and four War.

The teacher who was in charge of the survey stated: "The girls who do prefer romance I know to be older than the rest. Not only are they old enough to be in high school, but most of them have nothing else to think about."

In another of the schools, nearly all the students have foreign-born parents. Three of these girls said they never went to pictures, six went seldom, three once in two weeks, eighteen once a week, and thirteen twice a week or more. They preferred Romance to all others, giving it nineteen votes and its nearest competitor but nine. Of the boys, one never attended movies, six went but seldom, four once in two weeks, thirteen once a week and twelve twice a week or more. They seemed to prefer Gangster and Western films, giving them fourteen and twelve votes respectively, while comedy, which was third highest, received only six votes.

The children of American-born parents are about evenly divided in the third school with those of foreign-born parentage. Eight of these boys seldom went to the movies, two went once in two weeks, twenty-six went once a week, and twenty twice a week at least. When twenty-three of them did go they hoped to see a War picture, while twelve preferred Gangsters, making it second in popularity. Sixteen of the girls attended a motion picture only seldom, two went once in two weeks, twenty-six once a week, and fifteen went two or more times a week. Here, Romance also claimed first place with twenty-four votes and Comedy came in second with fourteen.

In totaling the girls, thirty-eight went two times or more a week, sixty-four went once a week, thirteen once every two weeks, thirty-three seldom, and six never attended picture shows. They preferred Romance above all else, giving it fifty-one votes, Comedy thirty-five, Western twenty-eight, Gangster fourteen, Tragedy eleven, and War seven. The total of the boys shows that forty-seven saw a picture at least twice a week, sixty-five once a week, four once in two weeks, twenty-two but seldom, and two never went. Forty-three chose War pictures, thirty-seven Gangsters, thirty-five Western, thirty-one Comedy, seven Tragedy, and six Romance .

Perhaps the most serious result found in the above figures, is the preference for Gangster films found among the boys. Not only are these films found to be largely worthless, but an evil, in that they give a glamorous and romantic touch to the sordid life of the gangsters. In fact, they become quite a problem when they appeal to poor youngsters of an impressionable age. For instance, one little boy said he preferred gangster pictures, and when asked how often he went to a movie, made the plaintive reply, "Whenever I get 35 cents, and that isn't very often."

HIGH SCHOOL RESULTS

As for the girls in high school, they also liked to see a Romance movie, giving it one hundred forty-seven votes, while fifty-eight were cast for Mystery, fifty-two for Comedy, fifty-one for Tragedy, forty-two for Western, twenty-three for College, sixteen for Sports, fourteen for War, and twelve for Modern. There were also numerous other types that were barely more than mentioned.

In a fight for popularity with the boys, Comedy finally won over War, with but one extra vote to its credit, while Aviation came third, Mystery fourth, Western fifth, Gangster sixth, Sports seventh, Adventure eighth, and Romance ninth. Many other types were also voted upon, but received less than fifteen votes.

"Spirit of Notre Dame" was the most popular picture with both the boys and the girls. The latter chose "Daddy Longlegs" as a close second, and the boys made "Dirigible" and "Four Horsemen" their second and third favorites.

A rather singular fact was disclosed when it was discovered that the girls preferred women stars and the boys preferred men. Janet Gaynor won first place in the girls' estimation with seventy-five votes, while Joan Crawford received fifty-eight, Nancy Carrol thirty-two, Norma Shearer twenty-eight,

Greta Garbo twenty-three, Constance Bennett twenty-one, Clara Bow eleven, Marie Dressler eight, Barbara Stanwyck eight, and Polly Moran six. The girls also cast thirty-nine ballots for Robert Montgomery, thirty-two for Clark Gable, twenty-seven for Charles Farrell, nineteen for Lewis Ayres, eighteen for Buddy Rogers, sixteen for Gary Cooper, and fifteen for Will Rogers.

The boys did not mention the stars as often as the girls, but those who did preferred Joe E. Brown. The rest are popular according to the following order: Laurel and Hardy, Lewis Ayres, Jack Holt, Edward Robinson, Wallace Beery, Harry Carey, and Tom Mix. Very few of the boys chose a woman star as their favorite, Norma Shearer and Janet Gaynor tied for first place with just six votes apiece, Joan Crawford came next with four votes, and Sylvia Sidney came third with only two votes.

FEATURE FILMS

AMERICAN MADNESS » »

Walter Huston, Kay Johnson, Pat O'Brien, Constance Cummings, Gavin Gordon. Direction by Frank Capra. Columbia.

At the risk of seeming effusive we wish to recommend this picture in superlatives. The theme is timely, the acting excellent (Mr. Huston again presenting a gratifying performance), the direction resourceful, and it is great entertainment. It is propaganda against mob hysteria and builds toward condence and a belief in "better times," but it is so skillful and refreshing in its method that one is aware only of its entertaining qualities. The plot tends to prove that character, integrity and honesty are better collateral when properly evaluated than material assets, and that this idealism can be effectively combined with good business. The action is gripping and dramatic and emotionally stirring. It is necessary to have seen the picture to appreciate that the title can be appropriate. It conveys little hint of the subject matter.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Good — **Children, 8 to 12** Mature

A NOUS LA LIBERTE » »

A French production. Films, Sonores Tobis. Direction by Rene Clair. Distributed in U. S. by Harold Antin.

This French picture satirizes modern business and society. While it is very nearly burlesque and almost slapstick comedy, it has a lyric quality that makes it unique in this country. The principal characters are first encountered in a ridiculous prison. One makes his escape and goes into the business of manufacturing phonographs, employing in his factory the exact régime of the prison workshops. Having become enslaved by his factory and his accumulating fortune he is finally rescued by his pal and shakes off the fetters of his business and social obligations to become really free. The comedy is reminiscent of Chaplin in his lightest moments. It is a sparkling production at which one smiles continuously but seldom laughs aloud.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Entertaining — **Children, 8 to 12** No interest

ATTORNEY FOR THE DEFENSE » »

Edmund Lowe, Evelyn Brent, Constance Cummings. Direction by Irving Cummings. Columbia.

Unless one has a zest for the vicissitudes of district attorneys this picture will seem rather superfluous. It contains nothing new either in the progression of the plot or in the technique of its portrayal.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Not recommended — **Children, 8 to 12** No.

BACHELOR'S AFFAIRS » »

Adolph Menjou, Joan Marsh, Minna Gombel, Irene Purcell. Direction by Alfred Merker. Fox.

The dire results of elderly bachelors taking unto themselves sprightly young wives is the subject of this flippant and amusing story. Adolph Menjou as the polished, quick-witted older man is shown in a situation which gets beyond him although he is humorously conscious of his quandary. The excellent acting of the cast turns what might have been extreme farce into a light and sophisticated comedy which will probably entertain adult audiences by its realistic absurdities.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Passable. Negative value. — **Children, 8 to 12** Too mature

BEYOND THE ROCKIES » »

Tom Keene, Rochelle Hudson. Direction by Fred Allen. R.K.O.

Again the "clever sheriff brings a dangerous character to justice." Tom Keene is the

personable hero of this western melodrama of early days of stage coaches and cattle rustling, and an unusual and entertaining effect is the singing of the cowboys on the range. It has an old plot, nicely handled, which will probably entertain the younger members of the family more than their elders.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Passable

Children, 8 to 12 Probably entertaining

▼

BRING 'EM BACK ALIVE » »

Direction by Clyde Elliott. Photography by Nick Cavaliere. R.K.O.

Frank Buck, adventurer and trapper of wild animals, is the author of a book published a year or so ago on bringing specimens back alive for American geological gardens. R. K. O. sent Mr. Buck back to Sumatra and to the Malay jungles to visualize this book. The result is a remarkable experience. It has no story, but is a well developed presentation of thrilling adventures so cleverly timed and photographed that one is unaware of the camera. There are engrossing fights between wld animals, reminiscent of U. F. A.'s masterpiece of the mongoose and the cobra, and throughout the entire picture, a naturalness and evident authenticity which is very convincing and entertaining. Delightful humor is supplied by the captives themselves. Mr. Buck's clear conversational explanations are a very pleasing accompaniment to this unusually interesting film.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Excellent

Children, 8 to 12 Good, unless child is easily excited

▼

BROWN AT CULVER » »

Tom Brown, H. B. Warner, Slim Summerville, Richard Cromwell. Direction by William Wyler. Universal.

The outlook of this picture is fresh, clean, full of vigorous boyhood. It has a plot without a girl, without a final football game, without a greulling race. It is unique! A homeless, disillusioned boy is given a scholarship at Culver Military Academy by the American Legion in memory of his father's bravery and death in the war. The development of his character amid the surroundsing provides the story. Some may object to so militaristic an atmosphere at a time when we are stressing international peace, but such a school also teaches self discipline, regularity, recognition of law and authority, and the final scene emphasizes an ideal inscribed on the Indiana war memorial—"vindicating the principles of peace and justice." It is a consistent, entertaining story which will undoubtedly appeal to the family, including the children.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Great interest

Children, 8 to 12 Good moral training and not too exciting

▼

CONGRESS DANCES » »

Lillian Harvey, Henry Garat, Conrad Veidt, Lil Dagover, Reginald Purdell. An Erich Pommer Production, Ufa. Direction by Eric Charell. Distributed by United Artists.

The charm and vivacity of this delightful musical comedy should prove irresistable to all audiences. Czar Alexander's gay romance with a little flower girl is etched against the gorgeous and colorful background of the Vienna of 1814 and the lovely elusive music of Viennese dance and song enhances the romantic gaiety and sparkle of the exquisite production. Do not overlook so outstanding an example of perfect workmanship.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Charming

Children, 8 to 12 Possibly too mature

▼

THE DARK HORSE » »

Warren William, Bette Davis, Guy Kibbee, Vivienne Osborn. Direction by Alfred E. Greene. Warner Bros.-First National.

"The Dark Horse" is a political caricature which is most amusing in its novetly and in its bits of absurd burlesque. After a deadlock at a convention, a silly, stupid old man is nominated for governor and is actually elected after some ridiculous campaign incidents. The humor is crude at times, but the satire is keen and one feels that even the rather broad vulgarity is put in with the purpose of poking fun at similar elements in real politics. Any man who has had a hand in a political campaign will find this a highly entertaining picture.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 No value

Children. 8 to 12 No

▼

DOWN TO EARTH » »

Will Rogers, Irene Rich, Dorothy Jordan. Direction by David Butler. Fox Film Corp.

An elaborately produced depression story devoted almost entirely to Will Rogers' witticisms. Too exaggerated to be subtle, not exaggerated enough to be burlesque ,too serious to be satire, and not sincere enough to ring true ,it however gives Mr. Rogers an opportunity to comment on the times, and his admirers will feel repaid.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Harmless

Children, 8 to 12 No interest

IS MY FACE RED » »

Ricardo Cortez, Helen Twelvetrees, Robert Armstrong, Jill Esmond. Direction by William Seiter. R.K.O.

The story pictures frankly and possibly with a measure of truth, a phase of newspaper reporting which seems to have caught the popular fancy for the moment: that of the muck-raking columnist who airs the daily scandals of people in the public eye. It is not elevating but the sophisticated audience will probably find it amusing in its risqué and cruel humor. There is no middle decent level. It portrays easy spending gangsters, and the equally lax easy spending fast "society" group, both the prey of the unmoral, conceited and selfish reporter out for "news at any cost." Smooth direction and an expert cast hold interest in spite of the ugliness it recounts.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 No — **Children, 8 to 12** No

▼

LADY AND GENT » »

George Bancroft, Wynne Gibson. Direction by Stephen Roberts. Paramount-Publix.

Here is an hour of real enjoyment, strangely enough spent in the company of a racy night club hostess and a hard-boiled prizefighter. It is a story of the heart, not of conventional ethics. But how these two people are transformed and learn to accept the standards of the home loving, productive community into which they are thrown is a vivid and stimulating experience although some of the sordidness of the opening scenes might have been shortened. Their transition in character is made quite naturally and without sentimentality through love of their protegé, and both remain "in character" throughout, although their appreciation of the values in life is changed materially. It is a comedy drama—different and entertaining.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Passable — **Children, 8 to 12** No

▼

LOVE IS A RACKET » »

Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., Frances Dee, Ann Dvorak. Direction by William A. Wellman. Warner Bros.-First National.

Fairbanks Jr.'s personal charm alone gives this trite story what claim it may have to distinction. As a young newspaper reporter who becomes involved in a murder to save the reputation of the actress with whom he is infatuated, and who is then thrown over for another man, he decides in his disillusionment, that "Love is a racket" and that he is through with women. It is not particularly elevating in detail and is quite mediocre entertainment.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 No — **Children, 8 to 12** No

▼

MAN FROM YESTERDAY » »

Clive Brook, Allan Mowbray, Claudette Colbert. Direction by Berthold Viertel. Paramount-Publix.

The "Man from Yesterday" is a vivid and absorbing drama of war and its after effects upon the lives of those it touches. It is another argument against war. Not new in theme, for it is another Enoch Arden story, it is yet so intelligently directed and so consistent in development that it holds the interest. It is serious drama, well cast, and well directed.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 No—depressing and mature — **Children, 8 to 12** No

▼

MAKE ME A STAR » »

Stuart Erwin, Joan Blondell, Zasu Pitts, Ben Turpin. Adapted from the novel, "Merton of the Movies," by Harry Leon Wilson. Direction by William Beaudine. Paramount-Publix.

In "Make Me a Star" we find the old favorite "Merton of the Movies" come to life in the person of Stuart Erwin who gives an excellent performance as the simple trusting boy who has glorified Hollywood and cannot realize the hard boiled reality of it. The story of his unexpected success is very amusing and the Hollywood background brings an authenticity and added interest to the setting. It is an excellent family picture.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Good — **Children, 8 to 12** If it interests

▼

MISS PINKERTON » »

Joan Blondell, George Brent, Blanche Frederici. From a story by Mary Roberts Rinehardt. Direction by Lloyd Bacon. Warner Bros.-First National.

As the name reveals "Miss Pinkerton" is a detective story. It is too confused to be a really good murder mystery, but it is light and entertaining and the treatment is novel. Miss Pinkerton is a trained nurse who though a novice in detecting crime turns out to be the best sleuth of all.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Passable, probably entertaining — **Children, 8 to 12** No

▼

MY PAL THE KING » »

Tom Mix, Mickey Rooney. Direction by Curtiss Newman. Universal. Seen in Studio preview.

Tom Mix makes another contribution to

good entertainment for children. In this fanciful story are all the sentiments and deeds that appeal to romantic and hero worshipping boys and girls. Into a legendary kingdom ruled by a child monarch comes the brave and kindly proprietor of a rodeo show. By chance he and the young king become pals. The wicked prime minister and his scheming cabinet are overthrown and the throne restored to the hands of the boy king. Combining the vigorous thrills of a "western" with the glamour of fairy tales, this picture will be a treat to all children and most adults.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Delightful

Children, 8 to 12 Excellent

▼

MYSTERY RANCH » »

Charles Middleton, George O'Brien, Cecilia Parker. Direction by David Howard. Fox.

"Mystery Ranch" is a typical "western" shot through with violence and masked in moral tones and stilted accents. The upright and virtuous triumph in the end, but there are a good many slinking villains, and violent deaths in this hair-raising and exciting melodrama. It is the story of a daring young ranger who rescues our sweet heroine from the wicked designs of an old and powerful rancher. The film shows the excellent scenic photography usual to this type of cinema, and while the old and new west are hopelessly confused, we forgive the anachronisms in the swift moving action.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Probably entertaining

Children, 8 to 12 Harrowing for the excitable child

▼

NEW MORALS FOR OLD » »

Margaret Perry, Robert Young, Lewis Stone, Laura Hope Crews. From the play "After All," by John Van Druten. Direction by Charles Brabin. M.G.M.

The play purports to show that the incompatibility of parents and children is responsible for many present day evils. However, the situation is so tingled with individual weaknesses that it can scarcely be called an entirely typical problem of society at large. It is an interesting picture in many ways, well cast and very well directed, with many human touches, not the least amusing being the fact that both rebelling children, without realizing it, become the same conservative type of adults their parents were. The character types are extremely well drawn but it is recommended only for those experienced enough to realize that such a salubrious ending does not usually follow in the track of broken conventions.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Not recommended

Children, 8 to 12 No

THE OLD DARK HOUSE » »

Boris Karloff, Mervyn Douglas. Direction by James Whale. Universal. See in Studio preview.

Mystery thrills, shivers and scenic effects combined with masterful acting and direction make this film a prize achievement of its kind. It is a melodramatic episode rather than a story and flashes like a nightmare across the screen. Several wayfarers gather at the old house to seek shelter from a storm and during the night many sinister happenings take place. When the morning comes all go on their way. There is no consecutive plot and no character development, but the director succeeded in making an impressive and absorbing, though harrowing, entertainment.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Too emotional

Children, 8 to 12 No. Terrifying

▼

OPERA BALL » »

(Opern Redoute.) Laine Haid, Georg Alexander, Ivan Petrovich. Direction by Max Neufeld. Produced by Greenbaum-Emelka.

This German comedy has a decidedly continental flavor. Concerning an intrigue between the wife of a diplomatic attaché in Vienna and the attaché's best friend, it involves a masque ball, mistaken identities and the successful deception of the would-be lover by the lady's maid. The tempo is slower than that of our own pictures and the tone of the whole, while extremely sophisticated, escapes actual offense by emphasizing the comedy of each situation. It is supplemented by music by Otto Atrausky, a well-known contemporary German composer. Many adults will find it amusing.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Not recommended

Children, 8 to 12 No interest

▼

REBECCA OF SUNNYBROOK FARM » »

Marion Nixon, Louise Closser Hale, Mae Marsh, Ralph Bellamy, Alan Hale. Direction by Alfred Santell. Fox.

To those who retain a definite memory of the charming "Rebecca" created by Kate Douglas Wiggin, the film version will be somewhat disappointing, for the film "Rebecca" grows up too soon and misses many of the amusing predicaments into which the story book heroine was led by her naiveté and good intentions. It is, however, a wholesome story of a loveable generous girl and contains many elements which will be pleasant entertainment for young audiences.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Yes

Children, 8 to 12 Yes

RED HEADED WOMAN » »

Jean Harlow, Chester Morris, Lewis Stone, Leila Hyams, Una Merkel. Based on the novel by Katherine Brush. Direction by Jack Conway. M.G.M.

Here we have the unvarnished and unlovely picture of a ruthless gold digger with no morals and the one idea of gathering unto herself the loot of her unscrupulous methods. The beautiful, greedy, nasty-tempered young woman stays in character throughout; no glossing over has been permitted, with the result that the character is alive and leaves a very definite and ugly impression. Though the picture calls a spade a spade it does so with finesse, and the treatment will probably not offend those to whom the subject matter is palatable.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Unsuitable

Children, 8 to 12 No

THE ROAR OF THE DRAGON » »

Henry C. Gordon, Richard Dix, Dudley Diggs, Gwili Andre, Zasu Pitts, Edward Everett Horton, Arline Judge. Direction by Wesley Ruggles. R.K.O.-Pathe.

Recounting the harrowing adventures of a band of American tourists in China who are attacked by Manchurian bandits, this film is so replete with ghastly and sordid details that the audience sits taught wondering what each new horror will be. The cruelties, the needless shooting and killing of innocent victims, the incessant drinking and the spectacle of terrified children make the picture an ordeal for any but the most hardened and sensation loving audiences. The apparently authentic and realistic background and the good acting only add to the devastating effect.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Certainly not

Children, 8 to 12 Impossible

SINNERS IN THE SUN » »

Carole Lombard, Chester Morris. Direction by Alexander Hall. Paramount-Publix.

To fill waiting theatre programs another "filler" has been ground out. We again spend an evening with a luxury loving girl who models clothes while she tries to instill ambition for money into her "boy friend." When he leaves her and marries wealth, she accepts the luxuries offered as the mistress of a wealthy married man. The final denouément of course brings both "parasites" to a realization of happiness secured in a more conventional mode of life. The title seems obscure.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Absolutely worthless

Children, 8 to 12 No

STRANGE INTERLUDE » »

Norma Shearer, Clark Gable, Alexander Kirkland, Ralph Morgan, Robert Young, May Robson. Direction by Robert Z. Leonard. From the play by Eugene O'Neil. M.G.M.

"Strange Interlude" will appeal only to mature audiences. The problem concerned is one on which there will be diverging opinions, but it is handled with restraint and taste. To escape the morbid reaction due to losing her fiancé who is killed in the war, *Nina* marries a kindly young man whom she considers the epitome of normalcy, only to discover that he bears the hereditary taint of insanity. For some seemingly sound psychological reasons she is deliberately unfaithful to give him the son he so pitifully desires. The resulting effects of this act constitute the action over a period of a lifetime. It is a daring subject—a psychological drama which is handled deftly and dramatically. As in the stage production, the thoughts of the characters are given with their actual dialogue and the synchronization has been made so skillfully that there is no confusion for the audience and there is no feeling of slowing up the action. The cast is admirable, Miss Shearer giving one of her finest performances especially in the earlier scenes. Only at the end is there a slight feeling that the cynical, bitter psychology of the play has been tempered with sentiment.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Unsuitable

Children, 8 to 12 Too mature

STRANGERS OF THE EVENING » »

Zasu Pitts, Eugene Palette, Harold Waldridge, Lucien Littlefield. Direction by Bruce Humberstone. Tiffany.

A story called "The Illustrious Corpse" has been adapted to the screen in a most ingenious and amusing fashion. It involves undertakers, a questionable doctor, even grave robbers; yet the treatment is so skillful that it is never gruesome. It is rather a fantastic sort of mystery tale with Zasu Pitts and Lucien Littlefield entering into one ludicrous complication after another, and the plot keeps one guessing to the final scene.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Entertaining

Children, 8 to 12 Not sufficient interest

THE STREET OF WOMEN » »

Alan Dinehart, Kay Francis. Direction by Archie Mayo. Warner Bros.-First National.

A triangle plot in which the sympathy of the audience is thrown entirely toward the "other woman" who is the inspiration for the man's success in building skyscrapers. The title would seem to indicate that behind all such construction is a woman's idealism.

Complications in the plot arise when the man's daughter and the woman's brother fall in love and find the situation unbearable. It is interesting of its type, due to good casting and taste in direction.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Unsuitable — **Children, 8 to 12** No

▼

A SUCCESSFUL CALAMITY » »

George Arliss, Mary Astor. Direction by John Adolphi. From a play by Clare Kummer. Warner Bros.-First National.

A charming simple story in which a wealthy man succeeds in placing the right emphasis on home ties, and incidentally brings out the splendid and loyal characteristics of his family and servants. It is pleasant, kindly entertainment; a comedy with underlying sentiment.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Excellent — **Children, 8 to 12** If it interests; little action

▼

TWENTY-SIX MARTYRS OF JAPAN » »

A Japanese picture.

This interesting historical drama of religious martyrdom shows episodes of the introduction of Christianity into Japan in 1590. It is a work of art photographically and a faithful portrayal, not only of historical incidents, but of oriental households and court ceremonials which would be impossible to duplicate elsewhere. Director Hirayama brought the film to this country for the English narration and sub-titles which accompany it, and they are so well done that few will regret the fact that it is not a talking film. Though somewhat slow moving and with some over-emphasis on the propaganda motive, it is acted throughout with sympathy and understanding and presents a moving and inspiring picture of the beauty and glory of dying for an ideal.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Excellent — **Children, 8 to 12** Too harrowing at the end

▼

THUNDER BELOW » »

Tallulah Bankhead, Charles Bickford, Paul Lukas. Adapted from the novel by Thomas Rourke. Direction by Richard Wallace. Paramount-Publix.

In a beautiful Central American setting of quaint Spanish town, jungle, and rocky ocean shore line, an unpleasant and sordid story of a married woman's love for another man is worked out to its tragic frustration. The woman is weak, self-centered, cruel, and few will feel that her philosophy of life is desirable of imitation. The whole effect is so depressing, unmoral, and unconvincing that it can scarcely be recommended as entertaining for any audience.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 No—very sordid — **Children, 8 to 12** No

▼

UNASHAMED » »

Helen Twelvetrees, Robert Young, Lewis Stone, Jean Hersholt, Robert Warwick. Diriction by H. Beaumont. M.G.M.

Within the last few months we have had an epidemic of court room pictures, and "Unashamed" is one of them. It is interesting and splendidly acted but not outstanding nor yet particularly convincing. A girl's reputation or her brother's life is the question before the court. The brother has murdered her lover. So we have all the ingredients for the modern social drama which so many adultst find thrilling, but which is thoroughly unsuitable for adolescents.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 No — **Children, 8 to 12** No

▼

WASHINGTON MASQUERADE » »

Lionel Barrymore, Burton Churchill, Karen Morley. Direction by Brabion. M.G.M.

A rather time-worn plot of the man in public life who betrays his own honor and the confidence of his friends for the love a woman is made absorbingly interesting by the very fine acting of Lionel Barrymore. To bring the plot up to the minute the setting is Washington, and to the tempting voice of the siren is added the corruptive influence of policital lobbyists. The lavish settings, scenes in the Senate and Press Gallery, a reception at the White House and a most gorgeously appointed dinner party lend color and personality to the production. There is a possibility that parts of the dialogue might be construed as special propaganda for certain political interests, but granting that the underlying motive of the producers was to make a good picture, they have been exceptionally successful.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Mature — **Children, 8 to 12** No

▼

WEEK ENDS ONLY » »

Joan Bennett, John Halliday, Ben Lyon. Direction by Allan Crossland. Fox.

A light, ultra modern treatment of an unconventional and improbable situation in which our lovely heroine, faced by poverty, becomes a hostess in a speakeasy, and to increase her earning, accepts a similar position as hostess for a bachelor at his gay and indecorous week-end parties. Questionable situations are glossed over by smart repartee and comedy is stressed. The appeal of the

picture will be limited to worldly adults who are not offended by so-called easy "sophistication," and who are thrilled by well-dressed ladies.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Quite unsuitable — **Children, 8 to 12** No

▼

WHAT PRICE HOLLYWOOD » »

Constance Bennett, Lowell Sherman, Gregory Ratoff, Neil Hamilton. Direction by George Cukor. Story by Adela Rogers St. John. Paramount-Publix.

This is a very clever study of Hollywood showing that in spite of its absurdities, generosity and ambition underlie much of the sham. It is the story of a waitress in the well-known Brown Derby restaurant who gets her chance and becomes a star. Her efforts at self-improvement, her marriage and motherhood, at war with the loose relationships around her, and the unfortunate scandal which wrecks her professional life are smoothly and tellingly presented, and one has a greater understanding of the glamour and difficulties of this artificial existence. Lowell Sherman gives a good characterization of the over wrought director who cannot stand the nervous strain. It is sparkling and satirical but not so cruel as "Once in a Lifetime," and while Hollywood laughs at itself, it does so in a kindly way and with understanding. Miss Bennett is very human and appealing and the supporting cast is excellent.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Not recommended — **Children, 8 to 12** Unsuitable

▼

WINNER TAKE ALL » »

James Cagney, Marion Nixon. Direction by Roy del Ruth. Warner Bros.-First National.

James Cagney with a cauliflower ear plays the part of a light-weight contender in the prize ring. He is admirably suited to the part, the cockey smart-alec who falls for blonds and likes a big time. Obviously the picture has no intellectual appeal. It is amusing in its wise-cracking way, swift moving and well directed but does not merit particular commendation.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Passable — **Children, 8 to 12** No

SHORT SUBJECTS

♦

DREAM WORLD » »

"Romantic Journeys" series. Educational Pictures, Inc.

A multi color review glorifying Southern California: San Juan Capistrano, the rare old mission; Palm Springs, mecca of winter visitors; Big Pines under a blanket of snow with its winter sports; Wilmington Harbor, its commerce and water sports; and Gay's Lion Farm with its apparently friendly beasts. Excellent photography, fair color, adequate accompanying talk.

▼

THE ENGINEER'S DAUGHTER » »

May Robson, Montague Love and members of the Masquers Club. Direction by Robert Hill. Paramount-Publix.

Delightfully clever burlesque on the old time melodrama—a great addition to any program.

▼

FORGOTTEN ISLAND » »

Educational Pictures, Inc.

Two adventurers brave the legend that death and destruction follow those who explore the bleak and desolate island of San Nicholas off the Southern coast of California. Their dramatic experiences are cleverly fabricated in this interesting film.

THE GOLF CHUMP » »

Ed Kennedy, Florence Lake, Dot Farley. Direction by Harry Sweet. R.K.O.-Pathe.

A banal, tedious comedy concerning the efforts of a family to play eighteen holes of golf on an exclusive golf course, after they have contrived to gain admittance on a bogus guest card.

▼

THE MAD KING » »

Cartoon. Educational Pictures, Inc.

Clever animated cartoon in musical comedy style. The cruel cat is king and the down trodden mice start a successful revolution. Unique and highly entertaining for all audiences.

▼

MAGIC CARPET SERIES » »

Recommended for the family. Fox.

(1) With the Foreign Legion

A composite day with these romantic adventurers. Very entertaining.

(2) Over the Yukon Trail

Exquisite scenes of the Yukon Trail, and contrasting pictures of gold mining by hydrolic methods with that of the lonely prospector panning his mite.

(3) The World at Prayer

A Very interesting delineation of the different types of religious services throughout the world among different races and sects.

MOTION PICTURE REVIEWS

THE WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY CLUB
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

AUGUST 1932

THE WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY CLUB
Los Angeles Branch American
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EDITORIAL

Parents will be much interested in a series of three articles, the first of which appears in the current September issue of McCalls' Magazine. The articles will outline the results of a four-year study of the effect of motion pictures on the sleep, health and conduct of children.

Everyone has had theories about the effect of motion pictures on children's habits and practically everyone has expressed these theories in no uncertain terms. But there has been no proof to substantiate theories. There has never been an accumulation of authentic data, the result of scientific research.

In 1929, the Payne Fund authorized an appropriation for such a study and interested the finest psychologists, socialogists, physicians, and educators. The universities of Yale, Chicago, Iowa, Ohio State, New York, and Pennsylvania State directed the research and now the first findings are being barred to the public. While the complete scientific reports and evaluations will not be available until later. These preliminary articles will hold much of interest and value to parents and others interested in this subject, and so urge our readers to familiarize themselves with them — McCalls' Magazine — September issue. "To The Movies—But Not to sleep."—HENRY JAMES FORMAN.

We wish to recommend that theatre goers watch for the appearance of "American Madness," reviewed in July issue. It is one of the most entertaining and novel of the new releases.

FEATURE FILMS

THE AGE OF CONSENT » »

Richard Cromwell, Dorothy Wilson, Eric Linden, Arline Judge, John Halliday, Aileen Pringle. Direction by Gregory Lacava. Radio.

This play is built upon a melodramatic structure which is carefully disguised with an abundance of supposedly collegiate humor. Those who have attended co-educational institutions will be somewhat shocked at the conduct of the students and those who have not will see a distorted version of college life.

It seems very unfair to college and college students to depict unconventional love affairs as the sole preoccupation of undergraduates. This is a pointless picture, and in spite of a charming cast, it is decidedly inferior en-

tertainment even for those whom it will not annoy. Obviously the title is in very poor taste.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Absolutely not recommended | **Children, 8 to 12** No

▼

BACK STREET » »

Irene Dunne, John Boles, George Meeker, Zasu Pitts, June Clyde. Direction by John M. Stahl. Universal.

This dramatization of Fanny Hurst's novel will have a limited appeal for it is a sad and disillusioning story. Beginning in the early 90's and covering more than twenty-five years, it depicts the bitter disappointment of a woman who holds only the "back street" in the life of a married man. Irene Dunne plays her part well, changing gradually from the beautiful, flippant young girl to the lonely, saddened woman. The wife never appears in the picture to divide sympathy with her, and the audience is left with a feeling of compassion for this "other woman" as she faces the emptiness of a wasted life.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Unsuitable theme | **Children, 8 to 12** No

▼

BIRD OF PARADISE » »

Theatre Preview. Dolores Del Rio, Joel McCrea, John Halliday, Bert Roach, Skeets Gallagher. Direction by King Vidor. Radio.

The lure of the South Seas with the rites of "Tabu," tom-toms, tropical flora, active volcanoes, and clear ocean water, all have a part in the enchantment of the island in the South Seas where an American youth elects to stay. Dolores Del Rio as *Leana,* a native girl, completes the background for the primitive love theme. The story and background both have charm, and though the plot offers a few impossibilities, the imagination of the audience may accept these without much discount of entertainment value. The beauty of the underwater swimming deserves honorable mention.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Doubtful | **Children, 8 to 12** No

▼

CONGORILLA » »

Produced by Mr. and Mrs. Martin Johnson. Fox.

Mr. and Mrs. Martin Johnson have brought to the screen a series of authentic sound pictures of wild life in the African jungle. The intimate glimpses of birds and beasts afford a liberal education in natural history and will interest and delight most audiences. Possibly to one who is sensitive to physical ugliness the scenes among the pygmies will not be so pleasing, for the naked bodies of these "little people" are extraordinarily grotesque and hideous in the extreme.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Good | **Children, 8 to 12** Fair

▼

THE CROONER » »

David Manners, Ann Dvorak, Ken Murray. Direction Lloyd Bacon. First National.

At last one may become acquainted with that new and popular variety of singer called a "Crooner." His advent, rise and fall are the subject matter of this picture which, if it has no great moments, has at least, few dull ones. A variety of entertainment is offered, including David Manners' pleasant singing voice, Ken Murray's wise cracks, the charm and commonsense supplied by Ann Dvorak, and touches of melodrama and tragedy to complete the whole. The interest is well sustained throughout and the acting is good.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Entertaining | **Children, 8 to 12** Probably little interest

▼

DOWNSTAIRS » »

John Gilbert, Paul Lukas, Virginia Bruce. Direction by Monta Bell. M.G.M.

John Gilbert in his own story has made for himself a thoroughly reprehensible part, that of a disgraceful rogue. If he had had more ability to create the illusion of whimsey—a dual personality both lovable and cruel, he would have had greater appeal, but as it is he commands no sympathy. However the plot is novel and different and will have passing interest for a general adult audience. It is the story of a lying blackmailer, a chauffeur, who upsets the menage downstairs and upstairs alike by his immoral and cruel acts. Finally dislodged from one household he is last seen seeking employment at another impressive establishment where we feel sure he will continue his evil and predatory behavior.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 No | **Children, 8 to 12** No

▼

DR. X » »

Lionel Atwill, Fay Wray, Lee Tracy, Preston Foster. Direction by Michael Curtis. First National.

It seems incredible that there should be enough demand for pictures of this sort to encourage producers to make them. This one is an extreme example of the horror variety. By a combination of insane notions and pseudo science, murders are committed and mysteries solved. There seems to be such an obvious effort to out-do open horror pictures

that the result fortunately is probably too artificial to produce dire results in the audience.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Not advised **Children, 8 to 12** Certainly not

▼

THE FIRST YEAR » »

Janet Gaynor, Charles Farrell. Adapted from the play by Frank Cravin. Direction by William Howard. Fox.

A friendly little story of the trials encountered by a young couple in their first year of married life is told in charming fashion. The sophisticated theatre-goer may miss the inimitable comedy of Frank Cravin in the character "Tommy" now played by Charles Farrell, but on the whole the production is excellent and the story with its gay thread of humor running through even its most serious moments, is refreshing and out of the ordinary in its simplicity of appeal.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Good **Children, 8 to 12** No interest

▼

FOR GLORY AND A GIRL » »

Reviewed in June issue under title "Huddle." According to "Unbiased Opinions," published by Fox West Coast Theatres. Released under title "For Glory and a Girl" in Southern California only.

▼

GUILTY AS HELL » »

Adrienne Ames, Victor McLaglen, Edmund Lowe. From play by Daniel Rubin. Direction by Erle Kenton. Paramount-Publix.

A murder drama in which an innocent man barely escapes execution for another's crime. It is novel in treatment in that the audience sees the murder and then follows the efforts of the police to find the guilty person. Lowe and McLaglen resume their vulgar banter, this time in the guise of reporter and policeman, but even their admirers will find it difficult to overlook the bad taste in direction and a light and coarse attitude toward life and death which is very offensive. On the whole it is pretty dull.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 No **Children, 8 to 12** No

▼

HOLD 'EM JAIL » »

Bert Wheeler, Robert Woolsey, Edna May Oliver, Roscoe Aates. Direction by Norman Taurog. R.K.O.

A rollicking slapstick comedy in the Wheeler and Woolsey manner. The background for the funsters is a prison with Edna May Oliver as the Warden's sister. A football game in burlesque provides a large share of the entertainment. Reviewers agree that it is a cure for the blues and good hot weather entertainment for the entire family.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Good **Children, 8 to 12** Good

▼

HORSE FEATHERS » »

The Four Marx Brothers. Direction by Norman McCloud. Paramount-Publix.

The inanities of the Marx brothers have amused and delighted many audiences in the past, but in this picture their penchant for coarse vulgarity and blatant puns seems to have obscured their genius as comedians. It is a pity when actors of ability relinquish wit in favor of dirt.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Unsuitable **Children, 8 to 12** No

▼

IGLOO » »

Esquimo cast. Photographed by Roy H. Klafki. Direction by Ewing Scott. Universal.

This is a film showing the stark drama of Esquimaux life; walrus hunts, terrific storms, continuous bitter cold, actual starvation. Though a love story joins the various episodes, the plot is not an important factor. The skillful management of the native cast, the photographic and scenic effects, and the stoicism of the tribe in its struggle against the elements make an intensely interesting and dramatic picture with a great deal of grim realism.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Interesting **Children, 8 to 12** Too emotional

▼

JEWELL ROBBERY » »

William Powell, Kay Francis. Directed by William Dieterle. Warner Bros.

A light comedy, gay, flippant with more than a touch of sophistication, "Jewel Robbery" is a clever adaptation to the screen of a Viennese play. It seems to have retained the combination of frivolity and satire one associates with smart comedies of foreign theatres. A beautiful reckless coquette, the much indulged wife of a very rich man, is greatly bored with life until she encounters the most expert thief in Vienna. The plot is extravagant, the settings beautiful, the lines double-edged, and Kay Francis most alluring. William Powell will probably acquire new piles of fan mail.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Too sophisticated **Children, 8 to 12** No

▼

THE JUNGLE MYSTERY » »

Tom Tyler, Noah Beery, Jr., Cecilia Parker, Carmelita Gherharty. Direction by Ray Taylor. Universal. Serial in twelve chapters (six previewed).

An exciting series of adventures in Africa in which a hidden hoard of ivory and a lost son (brother of the heroine) are the inspiration for the action. In some respects the plot is better than many serials, for the modern gangster with his low intrigues is absent. Here the setting is the jungle and war-like natives and wild animals provide the thrills. It is obviously an imitation of Tarzan, but its producers do not seem to realize that the appeal of "Tarzan" lay in its greater simplicity and in a closer adherence, if not to reality, at least to probability. These are lacking in "The Jungle Mystery" and the whole is overcharged with exaggerated thrills. It is not recommended for junior matinees because of the many younger children who are in attendance.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Passable — **Children, 8 to 12** Too emotional

▼

LATIN LOVE » »

Sari Maritza, William Freshman. Direction by Sinclair Hill. Golden Arrow Production. (Seen in theatre preview.)

A hackneyed, story of the loves of a little Italian cabaret singer. It is a vehicle to show the charm of the star, but unfortunately it is too poor a story, and is too unpleasant and tiresome in detail to hold audience attention.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 No — **Children, 8 to 12** No

▼

THE LAST OF THE MOHICANS » »

Harry Carey, Hobart Bosworth, Junior Coghlan, Edwina Booth, Lucile Brown, Walter Millar, Bob Kortman, Walter McGrail. Serial in twelve chapters, adapted from novel by James Fenimore Cooper. Direction by Reaves Easen and Ford Beebe.

"The Last of the Mohicans" is an exciting story of Indian warfare in Colonial days when France with her Indian allies was struggling to hold her colonies against the English. Excellent explanatory remarks preceed each chapter and help to keep the history of the period before the audience so that the personal plot has added significance. The action is necessarily thrilling and exciting, with massacres, hairbreadth escapes, warlike fighting, but the direction is in such good taste that there are no gruesome touches and the general effect is restrained without loss of dramatic interest. It is real "story book" adventure, a serial of distinction, which the average junior matinee audience of nine and over will undoubtedly acclaim as "keen" entertainment.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Very good — **Children, 8 to 12** Very good

MADAME RACKETEER » »

Alison Skipworth, Richard Bennet, J. Farrell MacDonald, Evelyn Knapp, Gertrude Messinger. Direction by Alexander Hall and Harry Wagstaff Gribble. Paramount-Publix.

Adults will find the adventures of the "Countess," a lovable old lady racketeer, deliciously comic. Alison Skipworth's artistry in characterization is a delight, and the story has a nice sense of humor, admirable continuity, and particularly "chuckly" dialogue. It is the story of a parole interlude in the life of a much-jailed confidence woman and is amusing and entertaining. While the production does not put the stamp of approval on the woman, we cannot estimate how accurately children might judge her code of ethics and we therefore question the suitability of the story for their entertainment.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Doubtful — **Children, 8 to 12** No

▼

THE MAN CALLED BACK » »

Conrad Nagel, Doris Kenyon, John Halliday. Direction by Robert Florey. Tiffany.

The story starting amid South Sea scenes reveals the regeneration of a doctor through the interest of a wealthy, unprincipled Londoner and his young, beautiful wife. There are sufficient variations on the triangle theme to keep one fairly well entertained, but it should not be seen in a hypercritical mood, as there are too many weak spots in plot development, dialogue and direction to make it an outstanding play.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Better not — **Children, 8 to 12** No

▼

MILLION DOLLAR LEGS » »

W. C. Fields, Hugh Herbert, Jack Oakie, Susan Fleming, Andy Clyde, Lyda Roberti. Direction by Eddie Cline. Paramount.

This up-to-the-minute burlesque has a novel plot and a lot of good clean humor. The mythical kingdom of Klopstokia is in need of money and in order to raise the necessary funds, the government officials and some of the citizens organize themselves into an Olympic team. The story amusingly illustrates the triumph of brawn over brain and burlesques almost everything in recent motion pictures.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Entertaining — **Children, 8 to 12** Good

▼

THE PURCHASE PRICE » »

Barbara Stanwyck, George Brent. Direction by Warren Wellman. Warner Bros.

This adaptation of Arthur Stringer's

"Mud Lark," opening in a night club and ending in the drabness of a dirty farmhouse, is the story of a city girl who learns to love an inarticulate farmer. The soiled realism and repulsive brutality are overemphasized, and the dramatic possibilities have been sacrificed to sordid details. The film version seems to have missed most of the real values in an excellent story.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 No — **Children, 8 to 12** No

SKYSCRAPER SOULS » »

Warren William, Maureen O'Sullivan, Verree Teasdale, Anita Page, Wallace Ford, Norman Foster. Direction by Edgar Selwyn. From the story by Faith Baldwin. M.G.M.

Those who lost money in the descent of the stock market should avoid this picture, as it evokes many painful recollections. The main figure is a New York banker who combines moral laxity with financial dishonesty on a huge scale. To show the extent of his power there is an attempt to carry four concurrent plots in the manner of "Grand Hotel," without accomplishing any end, however, except that of making the production more elaborate and tedious. Artistic settings and a certain amount of good acting become ineffective when used to embellish a production which is grim and sordid to the core.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Decidedly not — **Children, 8 to 12** No

STRANGER IN TOWN » »

Chic Sale, Ann Dvorak, David Manners, Noah Beery, Raymond Hatton. Direction by Erle C. Kenton. From the play "Competition."

Chic Sale on the screen is usually a crochety downright old man with a way of getting the better of his enemies and worming his way into the affections of his friends. In "Stranger In Town" he appears again as the same old codger, this time the proprietor of a grocery store in a one-horse town. Threatened by competition in the form of a chain store grocery, he handles the situation with his usual humor and acumen. In spite of a somewhat attenuated scenario the picture is pleasantly diverting.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Good — **Children, 8 to 12** Passable

SHORT SUBJECTS

HOLD THAT LION » »

(Three reels) Floyd Pyle, hunter. Photographed by W. Earle Frank. Narration written by Harry Chandler. A Principal Adventure Picture. Distributed by Principal Distributing Corp.

A graphic, beautifully photographed portrayel of a lion hunt in the magnificent rough mountain country of Arizona. The picture excels technically. The beauty of scenery, the accompanying sounds, and the action all combine to make an unusually interesting whole. The narrative spoken by Wilfred Lucas is also well chosen. The chase is exciting, and of course these lion hunts are necessary because the beasts are so destructive, yet one's sympathy goes out somewhat to the hunted wild thing which after all was only living after the tradition of its kind.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Excellent — **Children, 8 to 12** Very exciting

MAN EATER » »

Supervised by Elmer Clifton. Released by the Beverly Hills Productions Exchanges.

The man-eating shark is the menace that titles this short, which shows men diving for pearls and treasure. A tragedy mars the film for sensitive children. Its most interesting features are scenes of wharf life in foreign ports.

NURI » »

Supervised by Elmer Clifton. Made in conjunction with a group, headed by Lola Krentzberg of Amsterdam, Holland. Released by Beverly Hills Production Exchange.

Like a model short story, this projection with a wealth of detail and delightful information, will leave upon an audience a vivid impression of life among the teeming multitudes of India. The life of a typical Indian family is shown through the eyes of their old burden-bearing elephant Nuri, and his wise comments on the doings of his masters are amusing and interesting. It is an excellent production for all audiences.

ROMANCE SENTIMENTALE » »

A French picture by Serge Eisenstein.

A series of unique and beautiful photographic studies is accompanied by music in appropriate moods to illustrate the theme of Serge Eisenstein's "Romance Sentimentale." The blending of sound and visual beauty is skillfully achieved and actually produces the impression of the various emotions.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Good — **Children, 8 to 12** Confusing and hard on the eyes

MOTION PICTURE REVIEWS

THE WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY CLUB
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

SEPTEMBER 1932

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BASIS FOR EVALUATING FILMS FOR CHILDREN'S ENTERTAINMENT

In deciding what children may or may not see in movies we find a very definite problem because normal, healthy children vary greatly, and what they get out of a movie will depend upon:

(1) Physical differences (nervous system especially).
(2) Mental and emotional development.
(3) Cultural background.
(4) Moral background.

But there are several specific rules which must be insisted upon. Children should not be forced to see pictures which emphasize:

(1) Cruelty
(2) The criminal side of life.
(3) So called fast society untrue to the fundamental core of life.

And these specifications are necessary because we believe that there are several fundamental needs of childhood which must be considered. Psychologists tell us that these fundamental needs are:

(1) A feeling of security.
This is purely physical for infants. But as children grow older it is dangerous and cruel to condition them by pictures which tend to give them a feeling of insecurity, to inform them of dangers never suspected, and motives which they never knew existed. They realize that society may be insecurely organized and that there is a division of authority. This is socially disastrous in the training of children.
(2) They need to have curiosity satisfied.
Movies may do this if they portray true conditions. Most movies do not, and may stimulate morbid curiosity.
(3) There is a need for motor activity. Movies too frequently indulged in limit this.
(4) There is a need for mental activity, and pictures too mature or unhealthy in theme may stimulate and precipitate emotional stages too early in development.

Fear of noise and lack of support in infants are said to be the only inherent fear reactions. Others are the result of environment and experience. Highly organized nervous systems are frequently shocked, and children may be severly handicapped by visual experiences.

Ethical Standards in Detail

I. *Theme*

(1) Is the theme suitable? Is it within a child's understanding? Does it connect

in any way with a child's own experience or understanding? If not, when attention lags single incidents out of the context may give wrong impressions, and the child may lose the meaning of the whole. Nervousness may result from forced attention. A child may become sophisticated from frequent attendance at too mature pictures.

(2) Does it teach a positive morality? "Good endings" do not offset the impressions of crime which a picture leaves which emphasizes criminal characters and criminal activities.

(3) Are the emotions aroused wholesome ones? Under stress of intense emotion as hate, fear, joy, grief, admiration, love, experiences may leave an indelible imprint on a child's mind and character.

(4) Are the characters of the story the kind of persons you would wish a child to know?

(5) Are the incidents wholesome, probable, true to life? Ugly scenes may not do more harm than an insincere and light portrayal of life. Certain standards should be upheld.

(a) Theme should not make light of social institutions such as marriage.

(1) Farces about ugly family relations and divorce are unsuitable.

(2) Jealousy between husband and wife.

(3) Infidelity or suspicion of infidelity.

(4) Unpleasant family relations such as irreverent children, the mother-in-law "problem," etc.

(b) Theme should not make light of morality.

(1) Sex irregularities.

(2) Breaking the 18th Amendment.

(3) Breaking social conventions such as chance acquaintance between girls and men, visits to men's rooms unchaperoned, etc., for they give children distorted ideas of life.

(c) Theme should not make light of the church or church dignitaries, religion, social workers.

(d) Theme should not make light of the law or police.

(e) Theme should encourage respect for the Government.

(f) Theme should not foster race prejudice.

(6) Picture should not show excessive cruelty to persons or animals.

II. *Production*

(1) Is the production of a standard of excellence which will create discrimination and appreciation? Or are the thrills and action too exaggerated to be reasonable or humanly possible?

(2) Are the titles grammatical, profane, vulgar?

(3) If synchronized, is dialogue in good taste?

(4) Is the humor in good taste? Is the fun in the form of pranks, practical jokes, and cruel, thoughtless mischief which are made so funny that a child might think them worthy of imitation?

III. *Is the final impression left an inspiring one,* leading children to strive for something fine? Does it arouse constructive, wholesome curiosity and intelligent interest? Does it entertain with clean romantic adventure? Or by wholesome narrative about pleasant persons and incidents? Does it at least amuse, leaving a happy remembrance of good fun?

FEATURE FILMS

♦

BIG CITY BLUES » »

Eric Linden, Joan Blondell, Walter Catlett. Direction by Mervyn LeRoy. Warner Bros.

In this film we are shown an elaboration of the old story of what happens to an innocent country boy when the "big city slickers" get him. The part of the boy is well acted by Eric Linden, and Joan Blondell as a gold digger who has a change of heart, provides the sentimental interest. An irrepressible confidence man is the comedy relief which helps to lighten the depressing effect of the sordid background and a murder. The picture offers nothing particularly new in entertainment.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Very unsuitable

Children, 8 to 12 No

▼

BILL OF DIVORCEMENT » »

John Barrymore, Billie Burke, Katherine Hepburn. Direction by George Cukor. From play by Clemence Dane. R.K.O.

It is a pleasure to be able to recommend this production in superlatives. It is a serious drama, almost Ibsenesque in its sombre theme of insanity as it affects the various members of a family. In the opinion of our reviewers it is a splendid example of the possibility that good stage drama may become equally powerful on the screen. It achieves the intimacy of the stage, due in part to the excellence of the seasoned cast. Mr. Barrymore gives a most effective performance as the husband—the best of his screen career; Katherine Hepburn's sincerity as his daughter is deeply moving, and Miss Burke is also very satisfying in a role which possibly is less sympathetic. Special credit is due also to the taste and care with which the details of setting and direction are carried out, making a production which critical audiences will not wish to miss.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 If mature enough, because of merit production

Children, 8 to 12 No, too mature

▼

BLESSED EVENT » »

Lee Tracy, Mary Brian. Adapted from the play by Manuel Seff and Forest Wilson. Direction by Roy Del Ruth. Warner Bros.

A picture of this type cannot be said to be particularly elevating entertainment. It follows the columnist cycle and portrays a ruthless, breezy individual whose specialty is announcing the approaching arrival of babies, whether "blessed events" or otherwise. His cruelty in publishing the gossip which ruins one girl's life is only an incident in his career, although the crisis it precipitates proves highly embarrassing and even dangerous to him personally. The production is swift moving, risque, amusing, and like the play will appeal to many adult audiences.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Not suitable

Children, 8 to 12 No

▼

BLONDE VENUS » »

Marlene Dietrich, Herbert Marshall, Cary Grant, Dickie Moore. Direction by Joseph von Sternberg. Paramount-Publix.

The central idea of this picture is not easily determined. The director has used intense local color and atmospheric details which give the production a certain vividness, but the lost threads of the story, abruptly disconnected scenes, and sudden transitions so destroy its continuity both in plot and in emotional effect that in viewing it one must continually shift one's sympathies and readjust one's conception of the characters. Marlene Dietrich herself contributes the chief entertainment value, but her role is not a convincing one. She plays the part of a woman who is fond enough of her husband to sacrifice herself to aid him when he is ill but in so doing becomes infatuated with another man. Her consequent tragic decline is dramatically presented, but the lack of logic in it all counteracts its effectiveness, and the mother's selfishness in subjecting her child to such a sordid and precarious living alienates the sympathy of the audience. One is disappointed that a talented director and a fine cast should not have accomplished something better.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Unsuitable

Children, 8 to 12 No

▼

BROADWAY TO CHEYENE » »

Rex Bell, Marceline Day, Huntley Gordon. Directin by Harry Fraser. Monogram. (Seen at a theatre preview and subject to changes.)

Gangsters of Broadway go West, closely followed by our hero, a detective on vacation. Coincidence and melodrama are administered in a heavy dose. The same machine gun that killed the beer baron of Broadway is used on the cattle of Cheyenne. Yes, the villian suffers, and the hero has his happy reward in

the person of Marceline Day. If the plot were not so hypothetical, the scenery and smoothness of the direction might offset the ridiculous. A picture full of "bangs!"

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Too juvenile — **Children, 8 to 12** Too distorted

▼

CHANDU, THE MAGICIAN » »

Edmund Lowe, Bela Lugosi, Irene Ware. Direction by Marcel Varnel, Wm. Cameron Menzies. Fox.

Adults may find that "Chandu" is more effective on the radio, but these exciting and fantasic adventures as portrayed on the screen have at least the advantage of picturesque scenic background to add credence to the story. It is not a significant picture but a highly romantic tale of magic and mystery which is not intended to be taken seriously. It will appeal particularly to youth radio fans, and older children will undoubtedly appreciate and accept its unreality. *Chandu, the Magician*, rescues his brother-in-law and family from *Raksor*, the evil influence of the East, using hypnotism and astounding magic as his tools. Sound and photography are combined ingeniously to create weird effects. Many will find this tale pleasantly entertaining.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Probably very entertaining — **Children, 8 to 12** If not too exciting

▼

DEVIL AND THE DEEP » »

Gary Cooper, Tallulah Bankhead, Charles Laughton, Cary Grant. Direction by Marion Gering. Paramount-Publix.

The magnificent performance of Charles Laughton, who is to us a new actor on the American screen, makes this morbid picture worth seeing. As the insanely jealous husband of a beautiful and susceptible wife, his acting is so superb that the inconsistencies of the plot are not so obvious. The action takes place at a submarine base on the coast of Africa, and the naval scenes mitigate somewhat the sordid trend of the story. It is, however, one which sophisticated audiences will enjoy only for the acting of Mr. Laughton.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 No — **Children, 8 to 12** No

▼

DIVORCE IN THE FAMILY » »

Jackie Cooper, Conrad Nagel, Lewis Stone, Lois Wilson, Maurice Murphy. Direction by Charles Reisner. M.G.M.

Divorce in the family brings tragedy to a little boy who loves both parents and who is called upon to adjust himself to the new husband. It is a rather pathetic little story which touches melodrama in its climax, but it is gaily lightened by humorous incidents and by the appealing personality of Jackie Cooper. To those who are willing to concede that a woman is justified in divorcing her husband because of his too great devotion to the study of archaeology the story will be very appealing. In any case it is an interesting study of a child's reaction to an unhappy situation which is finally relieved by his joyous acceptance of two "fine fathers."

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Questionable — **Children, 8 to 12** Not necessary

▼

EXPOSURE » »

Lila Lee, Walter Bensen, Lee Moran, Tully Marshall, Bryant Washburn. Direction by Norman Hansen. Tower Productions. (Seen at a theatre preview and subject to change.)

A famous newspaper reporter of a New York tabloid awakens in a California railroad depot as the finale of a prolonged visit to a speakeasy. After this introduction the story unfolds with newspaper competition, varied love interest, and an abundance of newspaper characters. The plot is not smooth, the climaxes are mild. As a whole this picture recommends loyalty and temperance but borders on melodrama enough to be unconvincing.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Not recommended — **Children, 8 to 12** No interest

▼

HAT CHECK GIRL » »

Sally Eilers, Ginger Rogers, Monroe Owsley, Ben Lyon. Direction by Sidney Lanfield. Fox.

A stale plot poorly presented in a series of tawdry incidents makes this production a waste of time and very objectionable. The plot presents the trials and tribulations of a hat check girl who is surrounded by every possible bad influence and an amazing group of unpleasant people, bootleggers, night club habituees and rich men about town. It exemplifies the acme of bad taste in motion pictures.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Impossible — **Children, 8 to 12** Impossible

▼

HELL'S HIGHWAY » »

Richard Dix, Rochell Hudson. Direction by Rowland Brown. R.K.O.

"Hell's Highway" is a convict picture, following "The Big House" and others of that character, but more tragic and gruesome. Here the propaganda is directed against the horrors of working in prison road camps. It is vividly presented with swift and gripping

action in the final scenes. Inasmuch as Richard Dix takes the leading part it will probably be seen by a large number of children, which is unfortunate, as it is overstimulating and will arouse morbid curiosity. The treatment is starkly realistic, and one is given the impression that such conditions are general, whereas in some states excellent roads have been built by convict laborers who are permitted to do such work only as a reward for good behavior, who take great pride in their skill and require very few guards. If the purpose of this film is to protest conditions recently reported to be found in a southern prison camp, it may possibly have its place, but it is depressing and unpleasant—decidedly not entertaining, and it is questionable whether a picture of this type ever accomplishes any social reform.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 No — **Children, 8 to 12** Absolutely not

▼

LIFE BEGINS » »

Loretta Young, Eric Linden. From play by Mary McDougall Axelson. Direction by James Flood and Elliott Nugent. Warner Bros. First National.

"Life Begins" has the advantage of perfect casting, emotional scenes which avoid mawkish sentimentalism, excellent dialogue, sustained action and a novel setting—although many will challenge the use of a maternity ward of a city hospital as setting for a motion picture. Into this ward come cases of many types, and each baby's birth brings its quota of joy or sorrow. But the fault of the picture lies in the producers' ignorance or willful disregard of hospital methods and obstetrical care, in the vicious disregard of truthful realism. To create "drama" they needlessly sacrifice a young mother, callously give false impressions, implant unnecessary fear and suspicion in prospective mothers. In this day of enlightened medical procedure it is unfortunate that a producer should so unfairly place a handicap upon hospitalization and physicians.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 No — **Children, 8 to 12** No

▼

LOVE ME TONIGHT » »

Maurice Chevalier, Charles Ruggles, Jeannette McDonald, C. Aubrey Smith, Myrna Loy, Charles Butterworth. Direction by Rouben Mamoulian. Paramount-Publix.

Here is real entertainment, witty, gay, frivolous, pictorially perfect and enormously satisfying. Froth, spice and sentiment are combined in a whimsical fairy story about the romance of an ultra modern princess and a poor tailor. An accompaniment of interpolated songs adds gaiety and sparkle, and gives the whole a rythmic balance. The picture is perfectly cast, even to the most humble lackey, but the distinctive quality of the production is due to the superb direction of Mr. Rouben Mamoulian, who has managed to combine Shakesperian touches with Gilbert and Sullivan nonsense while concocting something entirely original.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Good — **Children, 8 to 12** Harmless but mature

▼

MISTER ROBINSON CRUSOE » »

Douglas Fairbanks, William Farnum, Earle Browne. Direction by Edward Sutherland. United Artists.

Douglas Fairbanks again appears in a charmingly intelligent and wholesome piece of entertainment, the adventures of a modern Robinson Crusoe, done with a light touch and a fine appreciation of humorous possibilities. It is not only amusing, but it transports the onlooker to a land of romance far removed from everyday problems. It is a welcome tonic after a weary array of morbid tales.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Excellent — **Children, 8 to 12** Excellent

▼

THE MOST DANGEROUS GAME » »

Joel McCrea, Leslie Banks, Fay Wray, Bob Armstrong. Direction by Edward Schoedsack and Irving Pichel. R.K.O.

The picture is horrible in detail. It purports to point the moral expressed in the line: "We call a beast fighting for his life savage, and a man hunting him for sport, civilized," A shipwrecked sportsman realizes the force of the sentiment when he encounters a madman whose passion is hunting men and preserving their heads in his trophy room. Hardly recommended for entertainment!

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Very objectionable — **Children, 8 to 12** No

▼

THE NIGHT OF JUNE 13TH » »

Clive Brook, Frances Dee, Charlie Rugles. Direction by Stephen Roberts. Paramount-Publix.

Again we have an innocent man on trial for murder, but the treatment of the story is so unusual that it is excellent entertainment. It is a story of life on a street and of the manner in which more or less innocently, all of the neighbors are involved in the tragedy. When called as witnesses, each for personal reasons conceals some facts which would clear the suspect, and the interest centers in the character studies portrayed. It is logical and realistic and unusually interesting.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 If mature enough — **Children, 8 to 12** No interest

"OKAY AMERICA" » »

Lew Ayres, Maureen O'Sullivan, Louis Calhern, Walter Catlett, Allan Dinehart, Nance O'Neil. Direction by Tay Garnett. Universal Pictures Corp.

Ever since the Lindbergh tragedy we have cringed at the very suggestion of kidnapping. In this drama we find a solution such as everybody longed for in that case. It shows our desperate situation in the country, with the increasing power of the gangster element, and yet it gives assurance that there are men in our nation who are strong enough and brave enough to save us from the enemy within. Action is precipitated by a young columnist (the Walter Winchell idea). The story is swift moving, the direction is unusually good, and the strongly patriotic note makes it far more constructive than the usual crime picture.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Doubtful subject

Children, 8 to 12 Too mature and exciting

▼

ONCE IN A LIFETIME » »

Jack Oakie, Sidney Fox, Aline MacMahon, Russell Hopton, Louise Fazenda, Gregory Ratoff, Zasu Pitts. Direction by Russell Mack. Universal.

Hollywood motion picture people with their foibles and their blunders, are the targets of this unsparingly satirical burlesque. It adheres closely to the original play and will amuse varied audiences whether or not they are familiar with the motion picture industry. Though the play is almost entirely devoted to an expose of Hollywood's weaknesses, the fun is sufficiently exaggerated not to seem illnatured. Its humor is of the modern wise cracking variety and the vulgarities are held down to the minimum.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Entertaining

Children, 8 to 12 Very little interest

▼

ONE WAY PASAGE » »

William Powell, Kay Francis. Direction by Tay Garnett. Warner Bros.

A man and a woman exchange glances in a Hong Kong bar and each is instantly infatuated with the other. When chance brings them together on an ocean liner they fall romantically in love. Though the audience is allowed to share in the knowledge that the lovers are fated to die, she from illness, he to pay the penalty for a crime, the picture is neither sordid nor tragic. It is purely a romantic episode illumined by the glamorous charm of Kay Francis' personality.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Too sophisticated

Children, 8 to 12 No

THE PAINTED WOMAN » »

Peggy Shannon, Bill Boyd, Irving Pichel, Spencer Tracy. Direction by John Blythstone. Fox.

While this is *not* the most desirable type of picture, it offers both adventure and thrills without introducing the grotesque and supernatural that have such a large share in many current melodramas. It is the story of a young girl who is caught in the snares of an unfortunate mode of life in a South Sea island cabaret, and pictures her almost hopeless efforts to escape her fate. Peggy Shannon in the leading role does a good piece of work, and Spencer Tracy as usual is both humorous and likable. To most audiences the intricate plot will seem consistent. Skillful direction and good acting are responsible for offsetting the blight of a very bad title and an old and sordid theme.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Unsuitable

Children, 8 to 12 No

▼

A PARISIAN ROMANCE » »

Lew Cody, Chester Franklin, Gilbert Rowland, Marion Shilling. Direction by Chester Franklin. (Seen at theatre preview and subject to change.)

A light sophisticated comedy for adults who are not offended by the theme of a girl temporarily deserting her poor but faithful lover for the attention of a rich and profligate French baron, with the consequent suggestiveness of his gay life. The cast is good and the settings attractive, including Paris streets, French countryside, studios and "baronial" apartments. Its general tone is of comedy, although it lapses into melodrama for a few scenes. Not an important contribution to the screen but amusing to some audiences.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 No

Children, 8 to 12 No

▼

PASSPORT TO HELL » »

Alexander Kirkland, Warner Oland, Paul Lukas. Direcfion by Harry Hervey. Fox Film Corp.

The East African Coast with the physical discomfort of life in the jungle, the unconventional social status of the characters and lax moral background, provides the setting for an "eternal triangle." Melodramatic intrigue of a sophisticated nature, in which questionable sex situations are deftly handled by inference is presented by Miss Landi as a well born English girl, Alexander Kirkland as the jealous husband, and Paul Lukas as the "other man." Warner Oland is excellent as a German militaristic disciplinarian. Divorce scandal, stolen war plans, suicide

and espionage are some of the dramatic elements. It is a story well told in smooth, rapid, interest-holding action. It is sophisticated melodrama but avoids actual vulgarity in its presentation.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 No **Children, 8 to 12** No

▼

RAIN » »

Joan Crawford, Walter Huston. From play by Somerset Maugham. Direction by Lewis Milestone. M.G.M.

Any actress who essays to follow in Jeanne Eagle's footsteps in "Rain" labors under a tremendous handicap. It is impossible for anyone who saw the original to avoid comparisons, which is perhaps unfair to the picture. However, in the earlier scenes others in the cast besides Miss Crawford seemed to be playing roles and to become unaffected and real only as the climax neared. In the emotional scenes of repentance Miss Crawford achieves her most sincere effect. Mr. Huston is admirable as the minister or "re former" (as censorship demands that he be designated). The play was distasteful to some. The picture will no doubt arouse equal antagonism and controversy. It is the story of a wretched prostitute caught by circumstances in the power of a ruthless reformer. In the emotional stress of her position she is moved to repentance and sacrifice only to loose faith in mankind again through a tragic occurrence. Mr. Milestone's direction is excellent, but the play achieved more dramatic results without the greater latitude in scene and action which the screen affords. Even the steady downpour of rain fails to seem as depressing as it did on the stage. However it is a sincere effort to reproduce a dramatic success and as such deserves attention and commendation.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 No **Children, 8 to 12** No

▼

70,000 WITNESSES » »

Phillips Holmes, Johnny Mack Brown, J. Farrell MacDonald, Dorothy Jordan. From novel by Cortland Fitzsimmons. Direction by Ralph Murphy. Paramount-Publix.

"70,000 Witnesses" is a mystery melodrama and as such is entertaining, but it would be a mistake to confuse it with the usual football picture, because the sport is only a back- It is not a child's picture and might give children a distorted and disillusioning impression of amateur games. But for the devotee of mystery tales interest is kept at high peak, and the audience is baffled till the end. The murderer's method might be questioned medically but that is after all not too important. It seems plausible during the action.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Doubtful **Children, 8 to 12** No

▼

SPEAK EASILY » »

Buster Keaton, James Durante, Ruth Selwyn, Thelma Todd, Hedda Hopper. Direction by Edward Sedgwick. M.G.M.

The audience will find this comedy disappointing. It is monotonous, not very funny and rather vulgar. Buster Keaton is less amusing than he should be, and though the other members of the cast and the director seem to have struggled hard, we cannot recommend their efforts.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 No **Children, 8 to 12** No

▼

TWO AGAINST THE WORLD » »

Constance Bennett, Neil Hamilton. Direction by Archie Mayo. Warner Bros.

This production is a skilful combination of situations apparently gleaned from recent films and a sensational trial lately reported in the newspapers. It is full of glamour and has all the trimmings of the sophisticated modern social drama. The plot concerns a young lawyer who, while taking up the cudgels against capitalism, falls in love with the spoiled daughter of a very rich man. There is a murder committed by a brother to protect his sister's reputation, and inevitably we see the court room interior and the beautiful heroine on the witness stand. But in spite of this lack of originality the quality of the acting and direction is good enough to make the picture fairly interesting.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Not recommended **Children, 8 to 12** No

WHITE ZOMBIE » »

Johnny Harron, Madge Bellamy, Robert Frazer. Direction by Victor Halperin. Produced by Halperin Brothers.

While the weird superstitions of the natives of Haiti offer real basis for a story of the powers of the witch doctors, this tale is only fantastic and unbelievable, like the creation of a crazed brain. To many, its horrors are piled on so thickly that they are only ludicrous. The plot concerns the evil machinations of *Murder,* a madman who by means of drugs induces a state of mental coma in his victims. These "unburied dead" obey his orders, and under this spell comes a young bride who becomes the "White Zombie." Her rescue constitutes the action. Into this nightmare Joseph Cawthorn brings the only breath of reality: The rest of the cast find the story too great a handicap. The picture is unwholesome and tiresome.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 No

Children, 8 to 12 Perfectly terrifying

SHORT SUBJECTS

PATHE AUDIO REVIEW No. 12 » »

R.K.O.-Pathe.

Diversified subjects in review—beautiful Alaskan scenes; night life at Ciro's London, (of little interest); interesting shots of curious creatures of the sea; picturesque scenes of an ancient towered city in northern Italy compared with modern New York.

SATAN'S PLAYGROUND » »

Produced and directed by George Allen. Released by the Beverly Hills Production Exchange.

This short subject is to be especially recommended. It is delightfully entertaining, beautifully photographed, with fascinating subject matter. Produced by a noted naturalist it shows the interesting flora, fauna, insects, and reptiles found in Death Valley, California, and is a picture which cannot fail to arouse enthusiastic approval from all audiences (of all ages).

WALPURGIS NIGHT » »

Ettore Compana. Producers, Kendall-De Vally Operalogue Company, Ltd. Direction by Howard Higgin. Educational.

Inspired by Goethe's "Faust" but having more resemblance to a Hollywood modernistic ballet, this short musical subject is a distinct disappointment. Only the beauty of Compana's voice compensates. Not recommended for any audience, particularly children.

WHAT PRICE GLORIA » »

First in a "Baby Burlesque" series. Educational Pictures, Inc.

This sort of picture is inexcusable. It is a stupidly vulgar take-off on the most sophisticated type of war play, and features baby actors. The association of children with cheap innuendoes is extremely revolting.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Impossible

Children, 8 to 12 Impossible

MOTION PICTURE REVIEWS

THE WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY CLUB
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FEATURE FILMS

AIR MAIL » »

Ralph Bellamy, Slim Summerville, Pat O'Brien, Russell Hopton, Leslie Fenton, Lillian Bond, Gloria Stuart. Direction by John Ford. Universal. (Seen at theatre preview and subject to change.)

Tremendously exciting, showing the terrific dangers of the air mail service and the daring chances with the elements taken by the pilots to keep to the mail schedule, this picture has too many thrills for the nervously inclined. The interest is entirely centered on the dramatic flying, frightful accidents and heroic rescues of brave pilots. The direction is splendid for this type of story and the men in the cast are admirable.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Very exciting **Children, 8 to 12** Too terrifying

ALL AMERICAN » »

Richard Arlen, John Darrow, James Gleason. Direction by Russell Mack. Universal.

A pertinent comment on the American custom of idolizing athletes, this cleverly paints the picture of a football star who progresses into the business world with his "All American" halo as his chief qualification for success. He has a bad time but makes his own adjustment and protects his younger brother from a similar awakening. It has a sound plot and good comedy, and for lovers of football, vastly entertaining shots of the game including famous coaches and players from many teams of the country.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Good **Children, 8 to 12** Too mature

THE BIG BROADCAST » »

Stuart Erwin, Leila Hyams, Sharon Lynn. Direction by Frank Tuttle. Paramount-Publix.

Anyone who is conversant with the personalities of radio stars will find this picture particularly entertaining, for it affords an opportunity to come face to face with a dozen favorites performing in a most amusing comedy of life behind the microphone. To that rare person to whom the cast are strangers it offers a wholesome story, hilarious fun, and pleasing music.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Good **Children, 8 to 12** Good

BLONDIE OF THE FOLLIES » »

Marion Davies, Robert Montgomery, Billie Dove. M-G-M.

Two little working girls achieve the "Follies," apartments on Fifth Ave., and "patrons." To insure sympathy with our heroine her patron seems to be away duck shooting most of the time, thus giving greater assurance of her morals. But her friend's Prince Charming falls in love with Blondie and green-eyed jealousy drives the jilted girl to revenge. Then we find our injured heroine again in her mother's simple flat to our bewilderment, and the bitterness of the family, be it said, who loved "daughter's social position." At last Prince Charming offers her a wedding ring with her next apartment. It's pretty bad from any point of view—ethical or artistic.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 No **Children, 8 to 12** No

BREACH OF PROMISE » »

Chester Morris, Mae Clark, Mary Doran, Theodore Von Eltz. Direction by Paul Stein. Educational Pictures, Inc.

There is nothing to recommend this dreary melodrama to anyone of any age. A young girl, to escape her sordid surroundings, sues an innocent man and wins a $50,000 breach of promise suit. Of course she repents and confesses, but the whole depressing attempt is not worth the effort of production!

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Unwholesome — **Children, 8 to 12** No

▼

EMIL UND DIE DETEKTIVE (EMIL AND THE DETECTIVE) » »

Fritz Rasp, Kathe Haack. Direction by Gerhard Lamprecht. U. F. A. (All German dialogue.)

This is Germany's first contribution to juvenile audiences, and it will appeal equally to American children because of its plot and the fact that the action is clearly understandable in spite of the German dialogue. An imaginative boy, who loves to play detective, is entrusted with a sum of money for his grandmother. En route he is robbed, and he enlists the aid of a gang of Berlin children to track down the thief, who proves to be a long sought criminal. The clever photography, naturalness of the children, and unusually interesting background combine to make a very entertaining picture which children will enthusiastically approve.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Good — **Children, 8 to 12** Good

▼

THE GOLDEN WEST » »

George O'Brien, Janet Chandler. Adapted from Zane Grey's novel. Direction by David Howard. Fox.

Adequate comment in the technique of this picture is handicapped by the fact that, through an error, one reel was missing at the preview. It is a Western, opening in the romantic South, where a feud between two families prevents the marriage of the young people. Next we find their descendants similarly attracted and their romance meets all the stirring obstacles consistent with the advance of a railroad through hostile frontier country. It has perhaps greater interest for children than for adults.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Fair — **Children, 8 to 12** Fair

▼

HERITAGE OF THE DESERT » »

J. Farrell McDonald, David Landau, Sally Blane. From the novel by Zane Grey. Direction by Henry Hathaway. Paramount-Publix.

A stereotyped and unsophisticated Western tale of an old homesteader who, with the help of a young engineer, holds on to his property and successfully revenges himself on the thieves in spite of the perfidy of his son. His ward supplies the romantic interest. Adequate direction and acting and interesting desert and mountain scenery make this simple story of pioneer days entertaining for those who enjoy the type.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Good — **Children, 8 to 12** Yes

▼

HOUSE OF DEATH » »

N. P. Kemelev, N. A. Podcorny, N. M. Vitoiv. Direction by V. F. Fedorer. Produced in Russia by Mejrobpom film. Presented by Amkino. (Russian dialogue but English titles superimposed.)

The film dramatizes the spiritual struggles of Dostogevski—his life's history and his final acceptance as a prophet in his own country. It is tremendously interesting in treatment, stressing mood and atmosphere—rather than action, building effects photographically and by means of music. Undoubtedly propoganda for the Soviet, it is too depressing in theme and treatment to appeal generally to an American public.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 No — **Children, 8 to 12** No

▼

THE KING MURDER » »

Conway Tearle, Natalie Moorhead, Marceline Day. Direction by Richard Thorpe. Chesterfield Production. (Seen in preview and subject to change.)

A murder mystery in which the plot is concerned with the mystery rather than the details of the killing. No scenes of violence are shown and yet the mystery loses none of its interest. The revelation of the murderer comes as a clever surprise and is not obvious at any time. To Conway Tearle goes the glory of the solution as well as the laurels for a good performance. Mr. Tearle is well supported and for those who enjoy this type of story the suspense will be sufficiently entertaining.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Interesting — **Children, 8 to 12** Too mature

▼

KLONDIKE » »

Lyle Talbot, Thelma Todd, Captain Frank Hawks, H. B. Walthall. Direction by Phil Rosen. Monogram.

A doctor fails in a difficult operation, and in order to escape disgrace flies to Alaska, where he finds the opportunity to rebuild his life. This problem play, melodramatic in tone, seems to be lacking in sincerity, possibly because Lyle Talbot, who takes the principal part, does not coincide with our preconceived

ideas of surgeon. As a whole the acting is disappointing, except for the modest role of Captain Hawks, which is ably performed by the flier himself. At times the movement is deliberate, and again it is jerky; the production in its entirety does not merit any enthusiasm.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 No — **Children, 8 to 12** Unsuitable

THE LAST MILE » »

Preston S. Foster, Howard Phillips, George Stone, Noel Madison. Direction by Sam Bishoff. World Wide Production.

Except for a few explanatory shots, the scene of "The Last Mile" is the death house of a prison. It is the development of an incident and has no plot other than the slim thread of events leading to the conviction on circumstantial evidence of an innocent young man. It is a powerful drama of fear and hate and futility, with its strongest note the smoldering hate of *Killer Mears* for the death house guard. The introduction of the outside scenes somewhat weakens the picture in comparison with the stage production, but nevertheless it is very fine and beautifully acted, although almost unbearably tragic and depressing.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 No — **Children, 8 to 12** Absolutely not

LIEBE IST LIEBE (LOVE IS LOVE) » »

Kalthe M. Nagy, Haus Albers. Direction by Paul Martin. Supervision by Eric Pommer. U. F. A. (All German dialogue.)

This German dialogue operetta is very entertaining even to an English speaking audience, for the direction and pantomime make the action and humor perfectly clear. It is an amusing comedy, Continental in treatment and full of absurdities. It tells the story of an impecunious youth who, through methods acceptable only in farce, wins the wealthy lady of his choice.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Passable — **Children, 8 to 12** Mature

LITTLE ORPHAN ANNIE » »

Mitzie Green, Buster Phelps, May Robson. Based on comic strip by Harold Gray. Direction by John Robertson. R-K-O.

An amusing little tale sprinkled with pathos, of two attractive youngsters who win one's sympathy, and of a crochety but lovable old lady who finally befriends them both. Children will adore the story and especially the michievious (though harmless) adventures of the small orphans. An interesting commentary may be added that for once social workers are shown in a favorable light on the screen—as kindly persons actually capable of humor and understanding.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Good — **Children, 8 to 12** Very good

MADISON SQUARE GARDEN » »

William Collier, Jack Oakie, Warren Hymer, Thomas Meighan. Direction by Harry Joe Brown. Paramount-Publix.

No doubt this picture will appeal particularly to those who are interested in prize fights and in the men who have been headliners in the sport world of Madison Square Garden. It is a clean picture, the story of a square sportsman confronting the crookedness of racketeering in the management of fights and pugilists. William Collier as *Doc Williams* gives a sympathetic portrayal of the honest, good hearted and loyal manager who won't be bought to betray his "boys." The sets of Madison Square Garden, the really exciting fight and the introduction on the screen of many well known managers and fighters give realism to the production.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 — **Children, 8 to 12** No interest

MAGIC NIGHT » »

Jack Buchanan, Anna Neogle. Herbert Wilcox Production. British Dominion Pictures. United Artists.

A sentimental little story telling of a romance between an Austrian officer in the World War and a pretty little flower girl in Vienna. It is musical and lightly entertaining.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Harmless — **Children, 8 to 12** No interest

MOVIE CRAZY » »

Harold Lloyd, Constance Cummings, Louise Closser Hale. Direction by Clyde Bruckman. United Artists.

Don't miss this delicious comedy—original, clean in every detail, different, and in spite of all its slap stick, holding a real interest in a sincere little love story. The background of a movie studio is very intriguing and entertaining. We feel certain in recommending this for fans of any age.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Good — **Children, 8 to 12** Good

PACK UP YOUR TROUBLES » »

Laurel and Hardy, Paulette Goddard, Donald Diloway. Direction by Ray McCarey and George Marshall. M-G-M.

The whole family will enjoy the antics of Laurel and Hardy as reluctant World War recruits and then as anxious foster parents

of their dead comrade's child. It's an entertaining farcical comedy, yet the unexpected bits of pathos give it depth and a charm that is altogether delightful.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Excellent **Children, 8 to 12** Good

▼

PAYMENT DEFERRED » »

Charles Laughton, Dorothy Peterson, Maureen O'Sullivan, Veree Teasdale, Neil Hamilton. From play by Jeffrey Dell, adapted by Ernest Vajda. Direction Lothar Mendes. M-G-M.

This is an amazing picture of the disintegrating effect of fear and of final retribution being visited upon a murderer after a respite of years. It is grim tragedy, an approach to the classical form which has for its purpose "purging the mind with pity and fear." It is a beautiful production, smooth in direction, excellent in dialogue, and distinguished by perfect casting.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 No **Children, 8 to 12** No

▼

THE PHANTOM PRESIDENT » »

George M. Cohan, Claudette Colbert, Jimmy Durante. Direction by Norman Taurog. Paramount-Publix.

Jimmy Durante and George M. Cohan (the latter in a double characterization) make a nonsensical trio who rollick their way through this most exhilirating satire on modern American politics. Musical comedy effects adroitly used, witty jibes at the weaknesses in our democracy and an ingenious plot make this picture one to be highly recommended as excellent diversion for all audiences.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Excellent **Children, 8 to 12** Entertaining

▼

RED DUST » »

Jean Harlow, Clark Gable, Mary Astor, Tully Marshall. Direction by Victor Fleming. M-G-M.

This is a picture which seems temporarily interesting but which is rather cheap in retrospect. Into the wildnerness of a rubber plantation where the only white men are the planter, his foreman and engineers, come two women of opposite types, a prostitute and the ultra civilized wife of the new engineer. The atmosphere, already overcharged by monotony, grows increasingly electric and the veneer of civilization wears very thin indeed. Crude vulgarities in dialogue, scenes, and action are possibly in keeping with the milieu, but many suggestive details are both unnecessary and inartistic. To Jean Harlow, cast as the prostitute, is given the comedy part which she plays with consistent ease. Clark Gable is sufficiently convincing in the personification of carnal man, and Mary Astor contributes the kind of beauty that can survive even tropical storms.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Very unsuitable **Children, 8 to 12** No

▼

SIX HOURS TO LIVE » »

Warner Baxter, Miriam Jordan, John Boles, George Marion, Sr. Adapted from the story "Auf Wiedersehen" by Gordon Morris. Direction by William Dieterle. Fox.

In making this picture the producers have attempted something so unusual and so difficult that complete success is hardly possible. Its very title compels one to thoughtful consideration of the meaning intended. An inspirational treatment of a fanciful idea, it portrays the interval between apparent death and the final passing of a man who is resuscitated and given six hours to live. It is intensely interesting, but fails to be universally convincing both because the plot relies upon the use of an improbable pseudo scientific invention, and because the emotional appeal is dependent upon the individual spectator's interpretation of the abstract theories presented.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Mature **Children, 8 to 12** No

▼

SMILIN' THROUGH » »

Norma Shearer, Frederic March, Leslie Howard, O. P. Heggie. From play by Jane Cowl and Jane Murfin. Direction by Sidney Franklin. M-G-M.

The greatest charm of this sentimental romance on the screen is the very evident sincerity of the production. Exquisite settings, satisfying casting and the spiritual appeal of the charming love story combine to create something rare and beautiful.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Excellent **Children, 8 to 12** Probably little interest

▼

THIRTEEN WOMEN » »

Ricardo Cortez, Irene Dunne, Myrna Loy, Kay Johnson, Florence Eldridge. Direction by G. Archainbaud. R-K-O.

This is the tragic story of a half-caste girl. Her sworn revenge on the twelve school girls who barred her from their society, and its subsequent working out make an unusual theme extremely well handled by director and actors. Tragedy comes to each one of the twelve girls through means of hypnosis and suggestion used by the half-caste against them. It is gripping entertainment for adults interested in the psychologi-

cal significance of suggestion. It is not to be recommended for the nervous or easily depressed.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 No — **Children, 8 to 12** By no means

▼

THOSE WE LOVE » »

Mary Astor, Kenneth McKenna, Lilyan Tashman. World Wide Production. Direction by Robert Florey. Educational.

The age old problem of a husband who feels himself neglected and succumbs to the temptress, is presented by a capable cast. It is simply told and might deserve passing commendation except for the questionable taste of discussing the infidelity before a very young son, in spite of the ultimate reconciliation.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 No — **Children, 8 to 12** No

▼

TIGER SHARK » »

Edward G. Robinson, Zita Johann, Richard Arlen. Author: Houston Branch. Direction by Howard Hawks. Warner Bros.

"Tiger Shark" tells the human, tragic story of the romance of "Mike," a picturesque Portuguese fisherman, uncouth, lovable and kind until crazed by the loss of the woman he loves. Robinson is remarkable in his portrayal, and Zita Johann's unique loveliness and personality make a strong appeal. The story is brutal, not only in the bitter theme, but in the scenes of mutilation and death in the attacks of sharks. But the theme is original and the background of tuna fishing has tremendous interest. It is probably best described as a man's picture, virile, thrilling, unsentimental, and the treatment makes it passable for older young people.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Depends on children — **Children, 8 to 12** Too exciting

▼

TOO BUSY TO WORK » »

Will Rogers, Marion Nixon, Frederic Burton, Dick Powell. From a story by Ben Ames Williams. Direction by John Blystone. Fox.

The best all-round picture that Will Rogers has made. The story, sentimental but pleasant, is a delight, and "Jubilo's" kindly, witty philosophy warms the heart. He is a drifting tramp, a returned war veteran who tries to locate a family which has long since passed out of his life. The sincere presentation of the character, the deliciously funny situations and natural and amusing dialogue combine to provide excellent entertainment.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Good — **Children, 8 to 12** Good, but little action

TROUBLE IN PARADISE » »

Herbert Marshall, Miriam Hopkins, Kay Francis, Charles Ruggles, Edward Everett Horton, Audrey Smith. Direction by Ernest Lubitsch. Paramount Publix.

An international thief loses his heart and his money to a charming and clever pickpocket. He becomes temporarily interested in a lovely lady, but she finally accepts her defeat gracefully. Without the arresting technique of its presentation the story would be nothing, but the unique use of light and shade, musics, photographic tricks, and pantomime embellish the production, and comedy overbalances the sophistication until we have a fresh, amusing and rather glamorous farce suitable for adult appreciation.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 No — **Children, 8 to 12** No

▼

WAR CORRESPONDENT » »

Jack Holt, Ralph Graves, Lila Lee. Direction by Columbia.

Jack Holt as a soldier of fortune joins the National Army of China. Graves is there as an American war correspondent. Neither is shown in an admirable light, so that one is not much interested in their rivalry over a girl of questionable character. Violence and excitement, and some excellent photography of stirring aerial warfare, add little to a trite and unpleasant story.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Hardly — **Children, 8 to 12** No

▼

WILD GIRL » »

Joan Bennett, Charles Farrell. From the story "Salomy Jane" by Bret Harte. Direction by Raoul Walsh. Fox.

A picture to be viewed as pure fiction, and as such it can be thoroughly enjoyed. It depicts life in the stage coach days, when justice was meted out to bandits and murderers in short order. There are beautiful scenes among the Big Trees as a background for swift action; it is skillfully directed throughout and the dialogue adds humor and interest. Those acustomed to Joan Bennett in more civilized surroundings may doubt her complete transition to frontier simplicity, but her delicate beauty and charm are inescapable. Eugene Pallette is outstanding, and the minor parts are unusually well taken. Too vivid portrayal of hangings and killings makes it unsuitable for children.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Probably good — **Children, 8 to 12** Better not

SHORT SUBJECTS

♦

FLOWERS AND TREES » »

A Silly Symphony in color. Produced by Walter Disney. United Artists.

An exquisite symphony of color, sound and rhythmic action. A fairy tale of trees and flowers. Delightful for any audience.

▼

MICKEY IN ARABIA » »

A Mickey Mouse Cartoon. Produced by Walter Disney. Columbia.

Mickey in an Oriental setting rescuing Minnie from an Arabian Sheik will delight the family.

▼

WINGS OVER THE ANDES » »

Three reels. Directed and photographed by members of the Shippee-Johnson Expedition.

A splendid travelogue taking one by airplane into a remote country and among unknown people; an adventure no one will care to miss. Educational and fascinating entertainment.

Principal Distributing Corporation

CHICAGO » »

One of "Great American Cities" series. One reel.

A flight over the city, showing the sky line, the loop, University of Chicago, stock yards, new Fair site and other points of interest. Interesting.

▼

DANGERS OF THE ARCTIC » »

Three and one-half reels photographed by Earl Rossman.

A very interesting selection of scenes portraying Eskimo life. Educational as well as entertaining.

SAN FRANCISCO » »

One of "Great American Cities" series. One reel.

Entertaining views of Civic Center, Chinatown, Golden Gate, University of California, etc. Interesting but not comprehensive.

▼

WALPI » »

A short subject of India. One reel.

Ceremonial dances and song of the Hopi Indians on the Painted Desert. Color adds beauty to this excellent subject.

MOTION PICTURE REVIEWS

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Vol. III NOVEMBER, 1932 No. 11

FEATURE FILMS

CABIN IN THE COTTON » »

Richard Barthelmess, Bette Davis, Dorothy Jordan. Direction by Michael Curtis. First National.

Distinguished by beautiful photography, and the luxurious setting of the fertile southern cotton country, the problem of poor white tenants and overbearing ignorant planters, is unfolded slowly and without inspiration. It does not pretend to champion either side, and the story is depressing in its presentation of dreary conditions. Barthelmess is not in his best role as the school boy, the planter's protegé, divided in his loyalty between his people and his benefactor. Bette Davis is excellent, and Dorothy Jordan convincing. To appreciate the theme some understanding of the problem is needed, which limits its interest to adults who will find it fair entertainment.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Too mature and sad
Children, 8 to 12 No

THE CRASH » »

Ruth Chatterton, George Brent. Direction by William Dieterle. Taken from the play, "Children of Pleasure," by Larry Baretto. Warner Bros.

Like several recent pictures in which Miss Chatterton has starred, "The Crash" is thoroughly disappointing. The plot is illogical; the shallow heroine flits from one man to another and back again with perfect composure and smug self-satisfaction; the atmosphere is one of selfishness and triviality, with a depressing background of the collapse of the stock market. We find no grounds upon which to commend this production.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Unsuitable
Children, 8 to 12 No

EVENINGS FOR SALE » »

Herbert Marshall, Mary Boland, Sari Maritza. From story by I. A. R. Wylie. Direction by Stuart Walker. Paramount Publix.

The theme presents a phase of life in which the breaking of home ties creates a release from standard conventions. A wealthy American widow goes to Vienna in search of love's "swan song"—a last grasp at romance—and the guilelessness of the lady and her final recognition of latent values are amusing. It is sophisticated farce deftly treated, and the result is fresh, light and pleasant entertainment, but not particularly exceptional.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Objectionable
Children, 8 to 12 Too mature

HE LEARNED ABOUT WOMEN » »

Stuart Erwin, Alison Skipworth, Susan Fleming. Directed by Lloyd Corrigan. Paramount Publix.

This is an uncommonly diverting and gay little comedy, well conceived, well directed and well acted. The story revolves around a young man who inherits an enormous fortune, and upon advice of counsel, steps out from

his previous bookish existence to learn about life and love. The course of his education furnishes good fun, refreshingly natural dialogue and much laughter for all the rest of us. The direction, cast and story are delightful—only the title is unwarranted.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Yes **Children, 8 to 12** Yes

▼

HOT SATURDAY » »

Cary Grant, Nancy Carroll. Direction by William Seiter. Paramount.

Almost as silly as its name, "Hot Saturday" is the story of a small town girl who is maligned by ill natured gossips, cast out by her family and her fiancé, and rescued by a play boy. She totters through blinding rainstorms and limps on high heels through the woods, even faints at the feet of her childhood sweetheart, but still she is misunderstood. Even if one admires Nancy Carroll's soft prettiness and Cary Grant's suave conceit, the picture is hard to accept.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Not recommended **Children, 8 to 12** No

▼

IF I HAD A MILLION

Based on story by Robert D. Andrews. Written for screen by: Claude Binyon, Whitney Bolton, Malcolm Stuart Boyland, John Bright, Sidney Buchman, Lester Cole, Isabel Dawn, Boyce DeGaw, Walter DeLeon, Oliver H. P. Garrett, Harvey Gates, Grover Jones, Ernst Lubitsch, Lawton Mackall, Joseph L. Mankiewicz, William Slavens McNutt, Seton I. Miller, Tiffany Thayer.

THE DIRECTORS: Ernest Lubitsch, Norman Taurog, Stephen Roberts, Norman McLeod, James Cruze, William A. Seiter, H. Bruce Humberstone.

CAST: Gallagher, Gary Cooper; Violet, Wynne Gibson; Eddie Jackson, George Raft; the Clerk, Chas. Laughton; John Glidden, Richard Bennett; Mulligan, Jack Oakie; Mary Wallace, Frances Dee; Henry Peabody, Charlie Ruggles; Emily, Alison Skipworth; Rollo, W. C. Fields; Mrs. Peabody, Mary Boland; O'Brien, Roscoe Karns; Mrs. Walker, May Robson; John Wallace, Gene Raymond; Zeb, Lucien Littlefield.

"If I Had a Million" is unusual in theme and treatment. It tells the story of a multimillionaire who presents $1,000,000 to eight different individuals unknown personally to him, and shows the reaction of each to the unexpected fortune. The episodes are by different writers: they are presented by different directors and each has its own star cast. It is particularly unique and interesting because of this variation in technique and the theme, in recognizing the frail ideals of mankind, is rather biting satire but thoroughly human. It is uneven in production as might be expected in so great a range in treatment. If all the sketches reached the perfection of two or three, it would have been a remarkable production. There are stories as clever as the best of O. Henry or De Maupassant ironical, witty, perfect, with outstanding photography, acting and direction. We recommend especially "The Explosion," "The Forger" and "The China Shop." The motivation of the plot is splendidly conceived by Norman Taurog, and also the opening sequences of "The Old Ladies' Home." The curtain is certainly a sop to "Pollyanna," but the whole is vastly entertaining and should have appeal for many audiences.

Adolescent, 12 to 16 Probably Good **Children, 8 to 12** Too Mature

▼

I AM A FUGITIVE FROM THE CHAIN GANG » »

Paul Muni. Direction by Mervyn Le Roy. Based on the book, "I am a Fugitive from a Georgia Chain Gang," purporting to be an authentic biography. Warner Bros.

Very definitely bitter propaganda against glaring injustices in the treatment of chain gangs, this is a picture to make one's blood run cold. Paul Muni gives an extraordinary performance in his tragic role and has excellent support in the cast. The photography and direction also are remarkably good, but the insistence on the crusading intent of the production makes the whole an impassioned plea for reform rather than entertainment.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 No **Children, 8 to 12** No

▼

THE KID FROM SPAIN » »

Eddie Cantor, Lyda Roberti. Direction by Leo McCarey. Samuel Goldwyn Production. United Artists.

Admirers of "The Follies" will not be disappointed in this elaborate extravaganza: stunning girls, sophisticated costumes, catchy tunes, gorgeously rhythmic ensembles, and a bull fight which is "immense." Eddie Cantor carries the show with his naughty but absurd humor. Too bad he is not on the scene all the time.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Good **Children, 8 to 12** Passable

MASK OF FU MANCHU » »

Boris Karloff, Lewis Stone, Karen Morley, Myrna Loy. Direction by Charles Brabin. M-G-M.

Undoubtedly there is a contest going on among Hollywood producers as to who can make the most horrible and revolting picture. So far the award goes to M.G.M. for "The Mask of Fu Manchu." This picture is not only unpardonable ghastly but, by emphasizing cruelty and cunning, it gives an ignorant and offensive portrayal of Chinese life and character.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 No

Children, 8 to 12 No

MEN ARE SUCH FOOLS » »

Vivienne Osborne, Leo Carrillo, Earle Foxe. Direction by William Nigh. R-K-O.

Little excuse can be offered for this portrayal of a distasteful subject. An ungrateful and immoral woman accepts the help of a man and is the cause of his imprisonment, once for beating her paramour and finally for killing him. There is little to be said for the production either ethically or artistically. A very slight exaggeration would have placed it definitely in the class of burlesque.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 No

Children, 8 to 12 No

MEN OF AMERICA » »

Chic Sale, William Boyd, Dorothy Wilson, Ralph Ince. Direction by Ralph Ince. R-K-O.

Gangs are moving West! This time they pick their locale in a peaceful little California Valley. Machine guns sputter and a full quota of murders is committed before this crowd of big city racketeers is brought to justice by the town's leading citizen, Chic Sale, and his vigilantes. It is possibly an attempt to reveal the rugged American spirit to be found in a melting pot of Chinese, Indians and Americans. When the peaceful life of Paradise Valley is threatened by gangster methods, its inhabitants rise and crush the menace. But over emphasis of brutality spoils the picture for our taste.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Not recommended

Children, 8 to 12 Absolutely not

THE MONKEY'S PAW » »

C. Aubrey Smith, Ivan Simpson, Louise Carter. Adapted from the one-act play by W. W. Jacobs. Direction by Wesley Ruggles. R-K-O.

An unusual and rather remarkable theme has been ruined by its treatment. The story is based on a belief in the magic power of a monkey's paw which will grant three persons three wishes each, although each will regret the wishes he made. The threat of this prophecy is fulfilled by gruesome tragedy, but the producer has weakened the whole by striving only for effects without regard for story or consistency. The result is hodgepodge—"neither fish nor fowl, nor good red herring."

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Absolutely not

Children, 8 to 12 Absolutely not

THE PHANTOM OF CRESTWOOD » »

Karen Morley. H. B. Warner, Robert McWade. Direction by J. Walter Ruben. R-K-O.

This is a mystery tale which sets a standard above the average. It has a surprising list of good actors for one picture, and they move through a story which keeps one in high nerve tension. The old California ranch setting, wild storms, mysterious music, and shadowy photographic work furnish an appropriate atmosphere. It will interest because of its well developed characters, harrowing suspense, and logical if somewhat obvious solution.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Questionable ethics, very exciting

Children, 8 to 12 No

PROSPERITY » »

Marie Dresslar, Polly Moran. Direction by Sam Wood. M-G-M.

Boisterous slapstick, but clean and wholesome nevertheless, this comedy may be recommended to all ages. The scene is any American small town today, turned hysterical by the thoughtless act of a malicious person. Miss Dresslar, acting, president of the bank, carrying on the high principles of her late husband, stems the theatrical run. It is kindly, human, thoroughly amusing, and encourages a laugh at the expense of "depression."

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Good

Children, 8 to 12 Good

RACKETY RAX » »

Victor McLaglen, Greta Nissen, Nell O'Day, Arthur Pierson. Direction by Alfred Werker. Fox.

Victor McLaglen, a gangster, seeing his first football game and impressed by the gate receipts, decides to start a racket in the game. He buys a bankrupt college, puts his boys on the field and the fun begins. The humor is broad, and some of it is vulgar. It reduces the gangster hero to absurdity. For those who like theirs burlesqued it is

amusing. However, most people are sufficiently tired of gangster pictures to wish that some research be done and the results presented on another phase of life as lived in these United States.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 No — **Children, 8 to 12** No

▼

SCARLET DAWN » »

Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., Nancy Carroll. Adapted from novel by Mary McCall. Direction by William Dieterle. Warner Bros.

Too bizarre photographic shots and overly pictorial settings show a belabored effort to catch a fitting Russian atmosphere for a story of an officer in the Czar's guards and a peasant servant girl caught in the whirl of revolutions. The sincerity of the cast is apparent and the love story makes an appeal to the heart in spite of the fact that the plot is melodramatic and fantastic and the whole uneven in its presentation.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Overemphasis on sordid phases — **Children, 8 to 12** No

▼

SECRETS OF THE FRENCH POLICE » »

Frank Morgan, Murray Kinnell, Gregory Ratoff, Gwili Andre. Direction by Edward Sutherland. Story by Ashton Wolfe. From series of articles appearing in the American Weekly. R-K-O.

A vivid and grotesque picture involving a plot to hypnotise a young Parisian flower girl so that she can impersonate the Grand Duchess Anastasia. The scene is the castle of the evil *General Maloff,* who has contrived a strange method of murdering his enemies. This is another of the horror thrillers, and while it is developed in a rather ingenious manner with the fascinating Gwili Andre as the heroine, it is not a film which can be recommended except to those with a taste for the morbid in entertainment.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 No — **Children, 8 to 12** Impossible

▼

SHERLOCK HOLMES » »

Clive Brook, Miriam Jordan, Ernest Torrence, Reginald Owen. Direction by William K. Howard. Fox.

To satisfy the vast following of Sherlock Holmes is an achievement. Clive Brook deserves great credit for appearing so definitely in character, and Mr. Howard, for building sustained suspense throughout while adding the thrill of keen satire in this modernized version. Delightful dialogue is also part of the attraction. The story tells of the final capture of that arch criminal, Moriarity, and will delight lovers of detective tales.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Good — **Children, 8 to 12** Unsuitable

▼

SILVER DOLLAR » »

Edward G. Robinson, Helen McMahon, Bebe Daniels. Direction by Alfred Greene. Warner Bros.

Starting at the time of the founding of Denver, Colorado, this story of pioneer days sketches the dramatic part played by the discovery of silver in the life of a fictitious character, *Yates Martin.* Probably the model for *Yates Martin* is Senator Tabor of Colorado since the incidents in the story conform closely to known incidents in the life of the senator, and on this account the picture will have special interest for persons who are acquainted with this period of political and economic history. Standing on its own merits as a screen drama, "Silver Dollar" is interesting, virile and particularly vivid in atmospheric details, but falls short in dramatic value because Edward G. Robinson is not quite convincing in his role and because, in an effort to explain the economic significance of the deflation of silver, there is too much dialogue. An overemphasis on the vulgar extravagances of the newly rich politicians makes a somewhat one-sided picture of pioneer life.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Mature — **Children, 8 to 12** Very little interest

▼

SPORT PARADE » »

Joel McCrea, William Gargan, Walter Catlett, Marian Marsh. Direction by Dudley Murphy. R-K-O.

The only distinctive part in this picture is the uproarious satire on radio broadcasting done to a turn by Robert Benchley. Otherwise the plot is a rehash of the much worn theme of athletes going professional and then mixing in shady deals. It is reminiscent of "All American" but is too confused in motives and action to be worth while. The cast is good.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Better not — **Children, 8 to 12** No

▼

20,000 YEARS IN SING SING » »

Spencer Tracy, Walter Hymer, Bette Davis. Direction by Michael Curtiz. First National. Seen in theatre preview and subject to change.

A dapper and very tough criminal is

brought to Sing Sing. His expectations of a favored existence due to his political connections are rudely broken when the warden informs him that any favors he receives will have to be earned. His somewhat uneven career as a prisoner shows a development in character which transcends the swanking bravado of his former self, and eventually leads him to make a brave and thoroughly noble sacrifice. Spencer Tracy imparts to this characterization a gamin-like quality which amuses almost as much his burlesque of a prisoner in "The Big House." With him again is Warren Hymer, though in a less conspicuous part. The theme is fast moving, coherent and logically developed.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Interesting — **Children, 8 to 12** Too mature

▼

UNDER COVER MAN » »

George Raft, Nancy Carroll, Lew Cody. Direction by James Flood. Paramount. Seen in theatre preview and subject to change.

This is not a steoreotyped gangster picture. The interest centers in an "under cover man" whose duty it is to supply information to the police but who must work alone and, like a spy, without recognition from either faction. George Raft plays this part to perfection, and skillfully makes the most of the many dramatic moments of the plot. His quiet restraint gives significance to each slight gesture and carefully spoken line. Though we may deplore the predominance of screen plays dealing with criminals, this can be recommended to adults at least for its dramatic suspense and quality of acting.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Not advised — **Children, 8 to 12** No

▼

YOU SAID A MOUTHFUL » »

Joe E. Brown, Ginger Rogers. Direction by Lloyd Bacon. Warner Bros.

The good natured Mr. Brown gulps and wallows his way through surf and seaweed to win a twenty-mile swimming race and a fiancée. This is absurd nonsense, too long drawn out perhaps, but delightfully cheerful.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Yes — **Children, 8 to 12** Yes

FOREIGN FILMS

GITTA ENDECKT IHR HERZ » »

("GITTA DISCOVERS HER HEART")

Gitta Alpar, Gustav Froehlich. Direction by Carl Froehlich. Froehlich Film, Germany.

A refreshing and charming operetta which is recommended for lovers of light musical themes. It is a typical romance of this type—love at first sight—misunderstanding—a final happy ending. The melodies are tuneful, the cast adequate, and while an understanding of the German language aids greatly in following the action, it is not absolutely essential to enjoyment of the film.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Good — **Children, 8 to 12** No objection

▼

THE THEFT OF MONA LISA » »

Willy Forst, Trude Von Molo. Direction by Giza Von Bolvary. A Tobis Super Film Production.

The plot is based on the true story of the theft of the famous painting and is artistically and dramatically produced with fascinating Parisian and Florentine background to enhance the interest. The interpolated English dialogue is execrable and takes from the entertainment value.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 If it entertains — **Children, 8 to 12** Harmless

▼

ZWEI HERZEN UND EIN SCHLAG » »

("TWO HEARTS THAT BEAT AS ONE")

Lilian Harvey, Wolf Albach-Retty. Direction by Wilhelm Thiele. U-F-A.

The story of this German Operetta concerns a young married woman who is induced by her worldly aunt to seek adventure on the stage. The beauty and personality of the principals, the charming singing and dancing have real entertainment value but the dialogue in a foreign language may seem lengthy to the average American audience.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Too sophisticated — **Children, 8 to 12** No

SHORT SUBJECTS

COCK EYED ANIMAL WORLD » »

Four reels. Carveth Wells Production. Principal Distributing Corporation. (Running time 34 minutes.)

A trip from Sydney, Australia, along the South and West coasts, with adventures into the interior. Very interesting and unusual pictures of flora, fauna, natives, and the principle industries. Excellent entertainment.

HOLLYWOOD, CITY OF CELLULOID » »

Two reels. Principal Distributing Corporation.

Not very interesting sightseeing tour showing Hollywood and the homes of movie stars.

IMPORTANCE OF SPOKEN ENGLISH » »

Electrical Research Products.

Excellent lesson in correct speaking.

ISLES OF DESIRE »

Three reels. Principal Distributing Corporation.

Beautifully photographed travelogue with accompanying descriptive narrative of life on a South Sea island. Contains much action, under water swimming and handling of frail canoes in the heavy surf of a coral reef. Recommended for the family.

PIANO TOONERS » »

A "Tom and Jerry Cartoon." R-K-O-Pathe.

A bit of vulgarity mars this otherwise original and amusing cartoon on unique methods of fixing piano keys. Adults.

PARIS VAGABOND ADVENTURE » »

R-K-O-Pathe.

Views of the French capital, evidently not recent, but interesting. The interpolated comments might be improved upon! Family.

VENICE VAMP » »

A "Tom and Jerry Cartoon." R-K-O-Pathe.

Syncopated nonsense. Clever and very funny traversy on grand opera. Family.

Principal Distributing Corporations

VIRGIN OF BALI » »

Three reels. Principal Distributing Corporation.

A delightful travelogue with accompanying narrative dealing with the every day life and customs of the natives of Bali. Very well presented with lovely photography and sustained interest in the fortunes of one particular family. More interesting for adults than for children.

Walter Disney Productions—United Artists

BUGS IN LOVE » »

A Silly Symphony cartoon in color.

A most delectable Silly Symphony. The scene is in a dump-pile, where the bugs are making music on all sorts of discarded junk. Very good family entertainment.

TRADER MICKEY » »

A Mickey Mouse Cartoon.

Mickey Mouse and his faithful hound emulate Trader Horn and convey a boatload of musical instruments up an African river infested with crocodiles and "hippos." Entertaining family picture.

THE WHOOPEE PARTY » »

Mickey Mouse Cartoon.

Minnie plays the piano, while Mickey runs the whole orchestra, and all the animal guests as well as the furniture, kitchen utensils, and materials for the banquet, dance merrily. Amusing for the whole family, though not one of the best cartoons.

Four Zane Grey Travelogues—One Reel Each

ON THE BLUE PACIFIC » »

The natural beauties of animal and vegetable life on an island off the coast of Mexico are presented in delightful fashion. Excellent for all.

SOUTHERN SEAS » »

A detailed and exceptional portrayal of life on the lonely islands of New Zealand. Family.

ISLAND OF LOVE » »

Life on Tahiti—a paradise of beauty. Family.

PRIMITIVE » »

A fascinating picture of a modern (Maori) Robinson Crusoe who emigrates to another island with his wife and babies and starts a new home, having to produce every necessity for the venture. Interesting to all—and especially delightful for children.

MOTION PICTURE REVIEWS

THE WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY CLUB
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

DECEMBER 1932

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Vol. III **DECEMBER, 1932** **No. 12**

FEATURE FILMS

CALL HER SAVAGE » »

Clara Bow. Monroe Owsley, Gilbert Rowland. Direction by John Francis Dillon. Fox.

Clara Bow is the heroine of what might be called an old-fashioned melodrama. Given a mixture of White and Indian blood boiling in her veins she flames her way through every situation known to an experienced director: wild parties, marriage to a crazed playboy, poverty, death of her child, street walking, finally rest in the arms of Mother Nature and a faithful half-caste sweetheart. It is an unimportant, cheap portrayal, and a pathetic exploitation of Clara Bow's very apparent and much publicized charms.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 No

Children, 8 to 12 No

THE CONQUERORS » »

Richard Dix, Anne Harding, Edna May Oliver, Guy Kibbee. Direction by William Wellman. Story by Howard Estabrook. R.K.O.

A cross section of an epoch, following particularly the changes which have occurred in the economic structure of our nation from 1873 to the present time. Three major depressions are portrayed with their effects on various members of one family through three generations. It is chiefly interesting because of the historical period covered and the effort which has been made toward authenticity in costumes and setting. It is stimulating because of the problems involved, and because it attempts to prove the folly of economic despair. It is too long a picture, introducing so many episodes and crises that the dramatic effect is weakened. The cast inevitably leads to comparison with "Cimarron" but it fails to have the epic significance of that film probably because one feels that this is more of a glorified news reel than a human narrative. However, it is very sincere and Ann Harding's personal charm (especially as the pioneer woman) and Edna May Oliver's flair for comedy make one remember the play in spite of the distracting elements.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Mature

Children, 8 to 12 Too brutally realistic in several scenes.

CYNARA » »

Ronald Colman, Kay Francis, Phyllis Barry. Based on the stage play of the same name. Direction by King Vidor. A Samuel Goldwyn production. United Artists.

"I have been faithful to thee Cynara in my fashion." This quotation is the motivating stimulus for the problem of whether a woman can forgive a man who has been unfaithful to her but who nevertheless loves her devotedly. The play is sincere, charming and sympathetic in its interpretation. Without being clinical, Mr. Vidor has succeeded in presenting us with a graphic psychological study of three people whose instincts lead them into conflict with tradition

and social standards. Technically it is an harmonious welding of all the elements of the modern talking picture. The characterizations are so well done as to warrant a recommendation for acting merit to each member of the cast. Mr. Colman's is especially noteworthy for its restraint and delicate shading. The picture has unusual interest for an adult audience.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 No — **Children, 8 to 12** No

FAITHLESS » »

Tallulah Bankhead, Robert Montgomery. Direction by Seymour. M.G.M.

A luxury-loving, selfish girl, losing her money, descends the social ladder, touching every rung of humiliation and degradation. The wretched vehicle effectively conceals any personal charms of the stars.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 No — **Children, 8 to 12** No

FLESH » »

Wallace Beery, Karen Morley. Direction by John Ford. M.G.M.

A simple hearted, kindly German waiter who is also a wrestler in a beer garden becomes champion, and is brought to America where he is exploited by unscrupulous men and women. The director has created very interesting and Continental atmosphere in the earlier scenes in Germany, the people seem human, and Wallace Beery gives a sincere and lovable portrayal of the credulous and amusing athlete. But under the high pressure of life in America the plot acquires a more melodramatic cast, professional sport is again shown in a disreputable light, and the resulting tragedy leaves us sad and disillusioned. The picture is, however, better than its misleading title leads us to expect.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Not recommended — **Children, 8 to 12** No

THE HALF NAKED TRUTH » »

Lee Tracy, Lupe Velez, Eugene Pallette. Direction by Gregory La Cava. R.K.O.

A trouper in a cheap carnival becomes a Follies' star through the original and absurd publicity of her manager who then supersedes her by publicizing another girl in even more outrageous "stunts." Lee Tracy as the manager is noisy, reckless, daring, unmoral, rather funny. It is very light entertainment, not very elevating, but gives perhaps a well deserved dig at modern publicity methods.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Not recommended — **Children, 8 to 12** No

MAEDCHEN IN UNIFORM » »

Emilia Unda, Dorothea Weick, Hedwig Schlichter, Herta Thiele, Ellen Schwannecke. Directed by Leontine Sagan. Artistic supervision by Carl Frielich. Dialogue in German. English titles.

This is a penetrating study of adolescent psychology, direct and simple in presentation, exquisitely natural in casting. Perhaps unfamiliarity with the actresses creates a greater illusion of reality for us in America, but we do not believe that we have ever seen a picture in which personality is more subservient to the characters portrayed. Here is perfection of art without exaggeration in acting, setting or story. It is suggested that it depicts the decline of Prussian disciplinary educational methods. This we cannot know, but it is an amazing picture of girls in boarding school, of one particularly sensitive individual, and of a just but understanding woman. Whether the school be German or English, French or American, adolescent problems seem much the same, and "Maedchen in Uniform" brings us closer to them.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Good but emotional — **Children, 8 to 12** Too mature

ME AND MY GAL » »

Spencer Tracy, Joan Bennett. From the story by Barry Conners and Philip Klein. Direction by Raoul Walsh. Fox.

In spite of the good cast there is nothing praiseworthy about this picture. It is a conglomeration of gangsters, low comedy and vulgar drinking scenes with a confused scenario. It tells the morbid story of a girl, once enamoured of a gangster, who is blackmailed and terrorized by him when he is released from prison.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 No — **Children, 8 to 12** No

THE PASSION PLAY » »

Filmed by Passion Players, Freiburg, Baden. (Silent film.) Release, the Passion Play Committee, 1576 West Washington Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif.

Views of the Holy Land and a dramatization of the Passion Play as presented by the German peasant players of Freiburg. It is done with sincerity and reverence. Interesting and educational for the family.

PENQUIN POOL MURDER » »

Edna May Oliver, Robert Armstrong, James Gleason. From novel by Stuart Palmer. Direction by George Archinbaud. R.K.O.

The Aquarium in New York is the scene

of a mysterious murder which is solved by the persistence of an old maid school teacher, Edna May Oliver. The story is one of the best of its kind, original in idea, full of surprises, laughter, novel situations and thrills, and the speed with which things happen reminds one at times of "Seven Keys to Baldpate." James Gleason as a "dyed in the wool" detective is the foil for Miss Oliver's dry humor.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Amusing
Children, 8 to 12 Too mature

▼

RENEGADES OF THE WEST » »

Tom Keene, Betty Fellows. Direction by Albert Shelby Levino. R.K.O.

Tom Keene, with his very likeable personality, is an ideal cowboy and deserves a better opportunity than he receives in this stereotyped melodrama of the Wild West. There is a good deal of fighting but it is too improbable to be really objectionable, and the lines are obvious. But it is humorous and full of action which will appeal to children.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Fair
Children, 8 to 12 Exciting

▼

ROCKABYE » »

Constance Bennett, Paul Lucas, Joel McCrea, Jobyna Howland. Direction by George Cukor. R.K.O.

A lachrymose and sentimental tale of an actress whose reputation (past and present) prevents the satisfaction of her maternal instincts by adopting a baby. The story is curiously hectic, resorting to slapstick of the custard pie vintage and a continuously drunken woman as comedy relief. One is quite unimpressed by the heroine's "noble gesture" of renunciation in the face of defeat.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 By no means
Children, 8 to 12 No

▼

A STRANGE ADVENTURE » »

Regis Toomey, June Clyde, Jason Robards. Direction by Phil Whitman. Allied Productions. (Seen in Preview, subject to change.)

A murder mystery with all the accompanying "scares," the only innovation being that the audience is very much present at the murder yet does not see how it happens until it is later diagramed and shown from another angle by the camera. There is the atmosphere of a mystery thriller, but the plot is melodramatic and far fetched and serves to provide only a quota of spinal chills.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Doubtful
Children, 8 to 12 No

STRANGE JUSTICE » »

Reginald Denny, Richard Bennett, Marian Marsh, Norman Foster, Irving Pichel. Direction by Victor Schertzinger. R.K.O.

An exceedingly melodramatic story of an embezzling bank president who is blackmailed by his villainous vice-president into framing an innocent boy for his own faked murder. Whatever interest the picture can claim is due to good acting and the nerve wracking suspense of watching an innocent victim almost brought to execution by a chain of circumstantial evidence.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 No
Children, 8 to 12 No

▼

TESS OF THE STORM COUNTRY » »

Janet Gaynor, Charles Farrell, Claude Gillingwater. From story by Grace Miller White. Direction by Alfred Santell. Fox.

The story is the romance of a sea captain's daughter living in a squatter settlement, and the son of a rich and tyrannical land-owner. It is old fashioned, pleasantly sentimental melodrama with a measure of pathos, and a dash of comedy supplied by a very diverting monkey. The Gaynor-Farrell wholesomeness is maintained in this little tale of the "rough and stony path of true love" with its happy ending.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Good
Children, 8 to 12 A little mature

▼

THREE ON A MATCH » »

Joan Blondell, Bette Davis, Ann Dvorak, Warren William. Direction by Mervyn Le Roy. First National.

Pare Lorenz in "Vanity Fair" magazine suggests calling certain pictures "toughies." "Toughies" he says are lively and dramatic and deal with contemporary life in "no mincing manner," but they contain no good writing and have little value artistically. "Three on a Match" seems to belong in this category. It is a story of three young women who have been little girl chums at school. Meeting accidentally they lunch together and light their three cigarettes on one match. Hence the rather obscure title. The plot thereafter is developed by following the fortunes of the three through various vicissitudes and the utter degradation and final suicide of one. The acting and direction are better than the story.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 No
Children, 8 to 12 No

TRAILING THE KILLER » »

Caesar the wolf dog, Francis McDonald, dog owner. Direction by Herman C. Raymake. World-Wide-Zeidman. Educational Pictures, Inc.

A simple story of herding and trapping with a wolf-dog as the hero. Caesar is falsely accused of killing sheep and accomplishes his own vindication. He is an admirable actor and with his mate and puppies will undoubtedly win his audiences (especially the juniors).

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Interesting

Children, 8 to 12 Good

▼

WASHINGTON MERRY GO ROUND » »

Lee Tracy, Constance Cummings. Direction by James Cruze. Columbia.

A glimpse of national politics for the uninitiated in which Lee Tracy is a newly elected congressman who exposes and cleans up a powerful political ring. The thread of romance running through the story is secondary to the sincere effort of the play to show the menace of gigantic boss manipulation of government, and the crime of indifference on the part of the voting public. It is entertaining and thought provoking. (It is not a dramatization of the book with same title.)

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Interesting

Children, 8 to 12 Mature

▼

WILD HORSE MESA » »

Randolph Scott, Sally Blane, Lucile La Verne, Fred Kohler. From story by Zane Grey. Direction by Henry Hathaway. Paramount Publix.

Western melodrama with a new twist to the plot, superb scenery and a competent cast to recommend it. The action is swift, retribution certain and the lovers are left to "live happy ever after."

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Entertaining

Children, 8 to 12 Good

FOREIGN FILMS

LIEBESWALZER » »
(LOVE WALTZ)

Lilian Harvey, Willy Fritsch, Georg Alexander. Direction by Wilhelm Thiele. U.F.A.

The plot of this German musical comedy is pleasantly entertaining; the cast, delightful; and the music, tuneful. The heroine is a princess who falls in love with the wrong person, in this case a rich young American, and the audience has the opportunity to observe royalty in the light-hearted pursuit of diversion.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Harmless

Children, 8 to 12 No interest

▼

LUISE, KOENIGEN VON PREUSSEN » »
(LOUISE, QUEEN OF PRUSSIA)

Henny Porten. From novel "Luise" by Walter von Mold. Directed by Carl Froelich. Associated Cinemas. (Titles in English.)

A beautifully produced historical film giving episodes in the life of Queen Louise of Prussia during the Napoleonic era. It carries a plea for the futility of war.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Good

Children, 8 to 12 Good but rather tedious because of German dialogue

MAGIC NIGHT » »

Jack Buchanan, Anna Neagle. Direction by Herbert Wilcox. British and Dominion Film Corp., Ltd. English dialogue. United Artist release.

A light, romantic operetta with Viennese characters and setting, tells the story of lovers parted by the sudden doom of the Great War, and of their reunion years later. British direction, and Cockney humor lessen the illusion of Vienna of the period and while the musical score is alluring, the whole is disappointing.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Passable; not recommended

Children, 8 to 12 No

▼

ZWEI HERTZEN AUF DREI VIERTAL TAKT » »
(TWO HEARTS IN WALTZ TIME)

Walter Janneson, Willy Forst, Oscar Katlweiss, Irene Eisenger, Gretl Theimer. Direction by Geza von Bolvary. Lichtspiel Productions (in German).

Delightfully romantic comedy based on the idea that musicians must be inspired to achieve their best. It combines beautiful music, delicious humor, and an interesting and unusual plot. It is well worth seeing.

Adolescents, 12 to 16 Good

Children, 8 to 12 Good

SHORT SUBJECTS

FLAME OF THE PACIFIC » »

Three reels. Producer and Director, Elmer Clifton. Beverly Hills Exchanges.

A fantasy of the South Seas, based on the legend of appeasing the wrath of the spirit of Pelee through human sacrifice. Good photography and interesting details of native life and customs. Family.

HOW TO FLY » »

Supervisor, Jack Nelson. Air Epics, Inc.

An interesting lesson in flying, demonstrating the plane and its use. Family.

KING NEPTUNE » »

Silly Symphony in color. Walt Disney. United Artists.

Neptune sends all the creatures of the sea to rescue a mermaid captured by pirates. Beautiful color effects, and good music combine to create an exquisite cartoon. Family.

KLONDIKE KID » »

Mickey Mouse Cartoon. Walt Disney. United Artists.

Mickey rescues Minnie from a bandit in the Klondike gold rush. It has more plot than usual, but is not in as good taste as we expect from these cartoons. Adults.

MICKEY'S REVIEW » »

Mickey Mouse Cartoon. Walt Disney. United Artists.

Mickey leads the orchestra; Minnie dances with a chorus of strange animals. Ingenious and amusing for all.

SANTA'S WORKSHOP » »

Silly Symphony in color. Walt Disney Production. United Artists.

"Santa's Workshop" deserves to be placed in the category with "Peter Pan"—something that every child should see at Christmas. It is the personification of the jolliest Santa Claus any child ever imagined, and a record of rollicking Brownies who hammer and chisel at as fascinating a bundle of toys as ever were loaded into a reindeer sleigh.

TERRORS OF THE AMAZON » »

Three reels. Producer and Director, Elmer Clifton. Beverly Hills Exchanges.

Well chosen episodes depicting native family life on the Amazon—its pleasures and dangers. Interesting and educational. Family.

TRAPPING KENTUCKY MOONSHINERS » »

Two reels. Supervisor, Jack Nelson. Borden Picture Co.

An interesting picture of the sparsely settled hills of Kentucky, the Cannel coal mines, and a raid of "revenuers" on a hidden still. Family.

TOUCHDOWN » »

Mickey Mouse Cartoon. Walt Disney. United Artists.

Burlesque on football. Entertaining for all.

A HOLIDAY SUGGESTION

"Mr. Robinson Crusoe" has at last reached Southern California. What better vacation treat could a family desire than to be transported by Douglas Fairbanks into this land of gay and fanciful romance?

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